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Japan

Spokesman Confirms Sanctions Against Libya

OW0104100792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1000 GMT
01 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—Japan will impose sanctions against Libya as soon as possible to comply with a UN resolution calling for air and arms embargoes against the country to force the surrender of suspects in the bombings of American and French airliners, the top government spokesman said Wednesday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a regular news conference that Japan's sanctions against Libya will include the reduction of diplomatic staffs in embassies in Tokyo and Tripoli and the revision of the export trade control ordinance to ban sales of aircraft and aircraft parts to Libya.

Of the 15 UN Security Council members, Japan was one of the 10 that voted for the resolution Tuesday which was jointly sponsored by the United States, Britain and France.

Komeito Urges Passing of UN Peacekeeping Bill

OW0104055792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0300 GMT
1 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—Japan's second-largest opposition party called Wednesday for an early enactment of a government-proposed bill that would expand the scope of Japan's role in United Nations peacekeeping activities.

Koshiro Ishida, chairman of Komeito, however, reiterated his call for shelving the bill's provision that would allow the government to send Self-Defense Forces (SDF) troops to join UN peacekeeping forces.

Speaking at a session of the party's decision-making Central Committee, Ishida proposed that the Diet discuss a proposed amendment to the bill that would require prior Diet approval for sending SDF troops to take part in UN peacekeeping operations.

Ishida said that the Diet should first pass the UN Peacekeeping Cooperation Bill and that the legislature should later resume discussions on whether to allow the SDF to join UN peacekeeping forces.

At the time of the resumed discussion, Ishida said, the Diet could discuss a proposed amendment that would require the government to obtain Diet approval in advance to send SDF troops.

The bill, which passed through the House of Representatives late last year, is currently stalled in the opposition-controlled second chamber, the House of Councillors.

The No. 4 opposition party, the Democratic Socialist Party, has supported the sending of SDF personnel overseas on condition that the government acquire prior Diet approval for such dispatches.

The UN Peacekeeping Cooperation Bill provides for the dispatch of up to 2,000 SDF troops abroad at any one time to UN peacekeeping operations.

The bill will become a law only if both houses of the Diet endorse it.

ADB Proposes Increase in Ordinary Capital

OW0104085092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0834 GMT
01 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) plans to increase its ordinary capital for the first time in nine years, international financial sources said Wednesday.

The ADB will ask major contributing countries, including Japan and the United States, for cooperation in the proposed capital increase at its next annual convention scheduled to open May 4 in Hong Kong, the sources said.

They said demand for ADB loans is increasing from Asian countries and is expected to continue increasing in the coming years.

The sources said, however, the amount of the capital increase has yet to be decided.

The ADB extends loans to the least developed countries from its Asian Development Fund (ADF), in addition to loans from its ordinary capital resources.

The ADB has decided to propose increasing the ordinary capital after Japan and other contributing countries recently completed procedures for an ADF capital increase of 4.2 billion dollars for the four-year period starting in 1992, the sources said.

The ADB's ordinary capital totaled 22.2 billion dollars as of June 1991. Japan and the United States had contributed 16.3 percent each of the total.

In 1991, loans from the ordinary capital resources rose 42.5 percent from the previous year, and the cumulative total of such loans grew to nearly 22.0 billion dollars, the sources said.

Prosecutors File New Charges in Sagawa Case

OW3103181892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1522 GMT
31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—The indictment on fresh charges of three executives for their alleged roles in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. scandal makes it Japan's biggest-ever breach-of-trust case, involving 79.5 billion yen, prosecutors said Tuesday.

The three officials indicted again Tuesday are Jun Saotome, former managing director of the parcel delivery firm, and Michio Ouchi, former chief of its financial affairs section, and Yasuo Matsuzawa, head of the Heiwado Medical Equipment Group.

Prosecutors charged Saotome and Ouchi with conspiracy in extending 15 billion yen in loans in 1989 to Rivastar Onsan Co., a record company-cum-stock speculator which later lost a large part of the money in investment blunders involving shares in Sumitomo Metal Mining Co.

Matsuzawa was charged with inflicting damage worth 1,225 million yen to a nonbanking financial institution by selling a condominium in 1991 he had earlier put up as collateral for a 1.8 billion yen loan from the institution.

The three men and Hiroyasu Saotome, former president of Tokyo Sagawa, were indicted on March 6 on charges of causing losses of 64.5 billion yen by providing the sum in the form of loans and loan guarantees to dozens of corporate and individual borrowers. The loans, many of which were allegedly extended without taking proper collateral, went bad later, prosecutors said.

It is alleged Tokyo Sagawa provided huge cash donations to more than 100 politicians of both the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and opposition parties from a slush fund it set up from kickbacks given by the beneficiaries of the firm's loans and loan guarantees. Media reports have alleged the money was provided to curry favors from politicians in helping the firm circumvent labor and transport regulations.

Poll Says Miyazawa's Public Support Rate Falls

OW0104084492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0831 GMT 01 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—The public support rate for the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has plunged to 24.1 percent, according to a KYODO News Service opinion poll released Wednesday.

The rate marks a steep drop from the 50.9 percent support level which the administration gained only three months ago in KYODO's previous poll.

The disapproval rate for Miyazawa's five-month-old cabinet surged to 65.3 percent from the December 1991 poll's 41.0 percent.

It is the first time the support rate for an administration has dropped below 30 percent since March 1989, around the time that former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita was sidelined from the political center stage following the Recruit stocks-for-favors scandal and a newly introduced consumption tax.

As for the reasons for growing public disapproval, 37.8 percent said they are despondent about Miyazawa's lack of leadership, while 25.4 percent said they are skeptical about his commitment to regulating Japan's money politics.

The latest poll also showed the support rate for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) plunged to 43.8 percent from an all-time high of 64.8 percent last September when Miyazawa's predecessor, Toshiki Kaifu, was still premier.

Of those who voiced support for the Miyazawa cabinet, 40.9 percent said they support him because they cannot see any real alternative, while 19.9 percent said they do so because they trust him.

Only 2.4 percent said they support Miyazawa because they believe he is serious about cleaning up Japan's money-based political world. The figure compared with 3.9 percent in the previous poll.

A mere 4.1 percent cited as the chief reason for their support their high expectations of Miyazawa's ability to improve Japan's relations with the international community. The figure marked a sharp decline from the previous poll's 20.5 percent.

A total of 6.2 percent said they do not back the Miyazawa administration because they disapprove of his economic policies. The figure represented a slight rise from the previous poll's 3.6 percent.

Some LDP officials close to Miyazawa linked this change to public concerns over U.S. anger at his remarks in parliament that the work ethic among American university graduates recruited into Wall Street securities firms appears to be on the decline.

Political analysts said the figures reflect public disappointment at Miyazawa's failure to come up with effective measures to stem continuing political corruption in the light of the Kyowa and Tokyo Sagawa money scandals.

The poll showed that the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) has a 17.7 percent support rate, up from the previous 15.4 percent, while the Japanese Communist Party improved its support rate to 2.9 percent from the previous 2.2 percent.

The support rates for the No. 2 opposition Komeito and No. 3 opposition Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) remained unchanged at 3.4 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively.

The poll showed, however, that those who have withdrawn their support from the LDP have retreated into political apathy rather than transferring their support to another party, with 23.2 percent saying they cannot support any party.

Asked to comment on the poll, LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki said that if Miyazawa could produce tangible results in reforming money politics and pass a bill to send a Japanese contingent of peacekeeping forces abroad, his support ratio "will definitely grow."

The poll was conducted Saturday and Sunday by interviewing 1,923 eligible voters, randomly selected at 250 locations nationwide. Of the respondents, 48.0 percent were male voters, while 52.0 percent were female.

The survey comes three months before House of Councillors elections for half the upper chamber's 252 seats.

Komeito Opposes Simultaneous House Elections

*OW0104085992 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 1 Apr 92*

[Text] Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida made a remark aimed at restraining Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's plans for simultaneous upper and lower house elections, saying that if Miyazawa should carry out his plans it may have a serious negative effect on the course of future political maneuvers. He said this in a speech he delivered at Komeito's Central Committee meeting today.

He pointed out that at present the Miyazawa cabinet's approval rating has markedly declined and the popular image of his cabinet as a full-fledged cabinet gained at the time of its inauguration has tarnished. If Miyazawa intends to carry out his plans merely to prolong his political career, Ishida warned that the prime minister should be fully aware of the serious consequences, and stated clearly that Komeito is completely against his plans.

However, at the same time, Ishida added that preparations must unquestionably be made to deal with the worst possible case, indicating that the party will hasten selecting candidates for lower house elections while keeping in mind the possibility of simultaneous upper and lower house elections.

Concerning the rumored reorganization of political parties after this summer's upper house elections, Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa, followed with a report in which he said that what is being mentioned is the formation of a coalition between the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ]; a coalition among the LDP, the SDPJ, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP]; a coalition among the LDP, the Komeito, and the DSP with the aim of winning more seats in the upper house elections scheduled for this summer. He pointed out that these coalitions lack doctrines and policies, which should be the basis and reasons for forming such political alliances. He added that after the upper house elections, Komeito has absolutely no intention of forming LDP-Komeito, or LDP-Komeito-DSP coalitions.

Planning Official Views New Economic Measures

*OW0104012492 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 1200 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Interview with Takeshi Noda, director-general of the Economic Planning Agency, by NHK newscaster Tadashi Sonoda and reporter Kazumi Ohashi in Tokyo; from "NHK News 21" program—live]

[Text] [Sonoda] Mr. Noda, we know you are busy. Thank you so much for sharing your time with us. Regarding the economic measures decided today, there are voices of criticism saying, it was too late in coming, or, the government's understanding of the economy is inadequate.

[Noda] At the time of the previous recession caused by a high yen value, the people were able to make a diagnosis

before the situation worsened. In other words, to compare it to the illness in a human body, the case at that time was a traumatic bleeding. The people could see clearly which part of the body was bleeding, and therefore could tell what treatment should be made. At that time, bankruptcies ran to about 20,000 cases, but they were limited to certain geographical areas and certain sectors of industries.

However, this time there was the collapse of the much-talked-about bubble economy, and there were problems in the banking and securities industry. The situation is comparable to an illness in the internal organs. This made evaluation of the economy difficult. The government, too, needs to do some soul-searching regarding it, but businessmen were also slow in taking actions, since they thought they had nothing to do with the bubble economy, and thought it would not affect them. I think it undeniable that the businesses were a little slow in starting to adjust inventories. That being the case, the economic measures this time are aimed at taking urgent action to prevent the economy from further slumping or slowing down. The primary aim of the measures is to put leverage into the demand side.

[Sonoda] Speaking of the contents of the measures, more drastic financial measures like the addition of public works projects or cuts in taxes have not been included in the measures. Do you think the measures can really be effective without such drastic actions?

[Noda] I am aware that there are doubts such as yours. But I would like you to remember that the 1992 Budget Bill is still under deliberation in the Diet. I think there has been no precedent of the government having come up with urgent economic actions in March. When the action was taken to deal with the high-yen caused recession, for instance, the year's budget had already been passed.

Now, talking about the level of income of businesses, the overall level may have gone down, but the income remains high in some sectors. As such, it is impossible to help bring up the income level too high. In addition, there is the problem of manpower shortages, which we are experiencing for the first time in history.

If you give a careful look to the actions we are taking, you will notice that financial considerations are given to such areas as investments in equipment to save on manpower, shorter work hours, and problems of small businesses. We think the actions will achieve good results. Besides, the measures will enable public works projects to be moved up drastically.

[Ohashi] Mr. Minister. You said that with the actions this time, the growth of 3.5 percent for next year predicted by the government will be certain to be achieved. But within the political circles there are already voices saying that taxes should be cut and the public works budget should be expanded by passing a supplementary budget. What is your view on such voices?

[Noda] We believe that the actions decided today are the best for the present given situation. Hence it is necessary first to watch how the actions are carried out and to see the results therefrom. After watching the results, naturally, we will have to take further actions as necessary, in view of the economic situation at the time. I think we can pass judgment only at that time.

[Sonoda] Timed with the actions, the official discount rate will be lowered by 0.75 percent from tomorrow. Do you not see the possibility of the bubble economy reviving from abnormal rises in stock prices or land prices?

[Noda] The Bank of Japan is in charge of the official rate—with its expertise and responsibilities. I would like to refrain from making a comment on that. But generally speaking, where the question of interest rates is concerned, the depositors' position, foreign economic relations, and many other aspects need to be taken into account in setting the rates. The bank cannot work on the assumption that the lower the better. Otherwise, the revival of the bubble economy is possible.

[Sonoda] Thank you so much for sharing your precious time today.

Central Bank Approves 0.75-Percent Rate Cut

OW0104002892 Tokyo KYODO in English 2308 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—The Bank of Japan's policy-making body held an emergency meeting Wednesday morning to approve a 0.75 percentage point cut in the official discount rate to 3.75 percent per annum, officials said.

The policy-making committee is to decide the key rate cut, the fourth since July 1, 1991, when the central bank lowered the key lending rate charged on loans to commercial banks for the first time in four years.

Reactions to BOJ's Discount Rate Cut Reported

Tokyo Money Rates Plunge

OW0104031492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0235 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April KYODO—Short-term money rates plunged Wednesday in Tokyo to their lowest level in three years following the Bank of Japan's discount rate reduction implemented early in the morning.

The key lending rate was cut by 0.75 percentage point to 3.75 percent per annum.

In interbank trading, the benchmark unsecured overnight call rate fell 55 basis points or 1.71875 percent from Tuesday to 4.78125 percent.

The secured overnight call rate sank 29 basis points or 0.90625 percentage point from the previous day to 4.65625 percent.

One basis point equals 0.03125 percentage point.

One-week discount bills were down 36 basis points or 1.12500 percentage point to 4.78125 percent.

In the open market, three-month certificates of deposit (CDS) newly issued by commercial banks were 0.01 percentage point lower at 4.79 percent.

The market initially had a surplus of 550 billion yen, but with the expiration of 1.5 trillion yen in discount bills and the central bank's lending of 400 billion yen to banks, it will instead be left with a shortage of 550 billion yen.

[Tokyo KYODO in English at 0252 transmits the following report datelined in Tokyo on 1 April:

"Japanese Government bond prices fell Wednesday morning on profit-taking after the Bank of Japan (BOJ) cut its official discount rate.

"The benchmark No. 129 spot issue of 10-year bonds fell 0.24 point to 105.80, with the yield standing at 5.360 percent, up 0.040 percentage point from late Tuesday.

"In the futures market, the June contract on 10-year bonds fell 0.12 point to 102.73, with a yield of 5.574 percent, up 0.018 percentage point.

"The market opened higher on buying following Tuesday's decline, but was followed by dealer profit-taking as buy incentives were exhausted with the rate-cut announcement, market participants said.

"A dealer at a commercial bank added there was some hedge-selling against the introduction of April government bonds.

"The June contract at one point fell to 102.68, dealers said."]

Move Said Good Calculated Risk

OW0104083292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0803 GMT 01 Apr 92

[By Mitsuru Mabuchi]

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—The Bank of Japan's [BOJ] latest benchmark rate cut, which was overshadowed by crude politicking, is Governor Yasushi Mieno's well calculated move to make this the last one in the current round of credit easing, analysts say.

After several weeks of bearing the brunt of intensive pressure from both politicians and business moguls, the BOJ Wednesday scythed 0.75 percentage point off the key interest rate, putting it at the lowest level since December 1989.

Weighing heavy on the central banker's deciding on the monetary easing was the fear that any cut now may look like a bowing to such pressures.

Shin Kanemaru, a back-stage kingmaker in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, recently said Mieno should be given the boot if he continued resisting a cut.

Insiders admit Kanemaru's vulgar arm twisting, coupled with less crude but equally clamorous calls for credit easing by some other politicians, has given the monetary policy an unpalatable political twist.

"This was the first time for us that we put our reputation as a central bank on the line," said a senior BOJ official.

Central bank economists started voicing immediately after the release of BOJ's quarter survey on business confidence early March the concerns that the current economic slowdown could be longer and deeper than they had anticipated.

But politicians' calls, which have been in crescendo for weeks, have served rather to delay the rate cut, a BOJ source said.

Mieno, who foresees inevitable resurgence of pressure for another rate cut as the economy is likely to continue limping for a while, cut the rate by a large 0.75 percentage point to give the market a message, analysts said.

"This is a clear signal to the market that the BOJ will do no more cut," said Yukio Yanbe, chief economist at Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank.

Another BOJ official said when the central bank changes the rate next time it will be in an upward direction.

By giving in to the pressure, Mieno has put himself in a stronger position for the next half a year, said Jesper Koll, a senior economist with the S.G. Warburg Securities.

"It is a good calculated risk that Mieno is taking," he said.

Mieno's tactic is to buy as much time as possible to wait for the signs of economic recovery to pop up, analysts said.

They are divided, however, on whether it will turn out to be successful.

Koll bets Mieno will win. As the effects of the monetary easing and the government's fiscal package will eventually make them felt in the economy, "I will not be surprised if in a half year time, some speculation about a possible hike in the rate begins to emerge," he said.

Nobuyuki Saji, senior economist at Nikko Research Center, an affiliate with Nikko Securities Co., said Mieno will be in hot water again as the economic activities will remain torpid for many months to come.

The economy could stage a moderate pickup in autumn, he said, but it is likely to be followed by another downward cycle, Saji claims.

Mieno at a press conference Wednesday brushed aside the concerns about such a double-dip or triple-dip recession, stressing a respectful recovery lies ahead.

With an increasing number of economists betting against him, and the July election of the House of Councilors

approaching, Mieno will soon find whether he is right or wrong by simply measuring the strength of the pressure he feels.

Ruling Party Leader Praises Cut

*OW0104044492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0328 GMT
1 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, vice-president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, on Wednesday praised the Bank of Japan's 0.75 percentage point cut in the official discount rate.

Kanemaru, commenting on the central bank's cut in the key rate to 3.75 percent per annum, effective immediately, said most people had expected a 0.5 percentage point cut and the extra 0.25 percentage point cut was something of a bonus.

He said the cut margin was appropriate, since a sharper cut would seriously affect pensioners and other people depending on income from interest for their livelihood.

Kanemaru suggested that the government should consider additional economic incentives, including the compilation of a supplementary budget, while watching the effects of the discount rate cut.

The key rate cut, designed to spur business activity by making borrowing less costly, came one day after the government announced a package of emergency pump-priming measures to bolster the economy.

Hata: No Need for Further Cut

*OW0104044792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0321 GMT
1 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata suggested Wednesday that there is no need for a further cut in Japan's official discount rate.

Earlier in the day, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) pruned its key lending rate 0.75 percentage point to 3.75 percent per annum.

At a press conference following the central bank's action, Hata said the rate cut will bring interest rates to an extremely good level.

On the impact of the rate cut on foreign exchange rates and the stock market, the finance minister said they will probably move in the right direction.

To back up his premise, he pointed to the country's firm economic fundamentals.

Touching on the size of the rate reduction, which was larger than originally planned, Hata said it was based on an overall assessment by the BOJ, which is maintaining a neutral stance. The BOJ originally planned to trim the key rate by half a percentage point to 4.0 percent, officials said.

When queried on the possibility of a resurgence of the so-called "bubble" economy that sprang up in the past from softer credit, Hata said the government will monitor the situation closely and take steps to avert such a recurrence.

He also tried to lay to rest such fears by citing the steady decline in land prices.

Takeshi Noda, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), also shrugged off the likelihood of another rate reduction, saying such a move would have a negative effect on the economy by creating a host of new problems.

During a news conference following the central bank action, Noda said the rate cut was timely, appropriate, and in line with the government's emergency pump-priming measures announced Tuesday.

He said the necessary conditions have been set on both the monetary and public fiscal fronts for achieving domestic demand-led noninflationary sustained growth.

Japan's trade minister, meanwhile, said the lowering of the official discount rate and the government's emergency economic package will have a favorable impact on corporate confidence, capital spending, and the overall economy.

International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe made his comments during an informal discussion with reporters.

Result of 'Intensive' Pressure

*OW0104055692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0351 GMT
1 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ), moving to augment the government's economic stimulation package, Wednesday lowered its benchmark interest rate to the lowest level since December 1989.

The central bank announced that it cut the official discount rate, which it charges on loans to commercial banks, to an annual 3.75 percent from 4.5 percent.

The long-awaited move, which came on the heels of the government's package of emergency pump-priming measures to bolster public confidence in the economy, capped weeks of speculation in financial markets and intensive political pressure on the bank to ease credit.

BOJ Governor Yasushi Mieno said at a press conference following the announcement that the step is designed to underpin corporate investments and to ensure that the current adjustment phase is a temperate one.

The latest cut is the fourth since July 1991, when the key lending rate was first lowered to 5.5 percent from the recent peak of 6.0 percent.

"Combined with the fiscal measures, (the latest cut) will make a sufficient contribution to stable economic growth," Mieno said.

Although Mieno denied that the bank had timed the monetary easing with the government's economic rescue package announced Tuesday, private-sector economists believe the move was fully coordinated with the government.

The government has now produced a "double-barreled gun aimed to achieve its target of 3.5 percent (real) economic growth for fiscal 1992," said Jesper Koll, senior economist with S.G. Warburg Securities (Japan) Inc.

The reduction by 0.75 percentage point was the top side of market expectations, and that was due to "a little bit of bowing to political pressure," said Koll.

Mieno, however, brushed off hints that the bank's decision was influenced by political arm twisting in the past few weeks.

A powerful politician in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party said Mieno should be sacked if he continues resisting the rate cut.

"Pressure (by politicians or any outsiders) can never change our judgment, although we always listen to these voices," Mieno said. "We just do what we've got to do."

The BOJ's largest slash in the highly visible rate since December 11, 1981, when it was reduced by 0.75 percentage point to 5.5 percent, is also a step to kill the lingering expectations that more cuts lie ahead, economists said.

"The BOJ wanted to create a strong perception in the market that this is the last cut," said Yukio Yanbe, chief economist at Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank.

The anticipation in the financial markets for the monetary easing had been rife for many weeks as the economy showed signs of being on a sharp downswing.

"The BOJ was somewhat forced to do a large cut because the markets had discounted a cut as large as 0.75 percentage point," said Toshio Ito, chief economist at Sumitomo Bank.

"If the reduction had been by 0.5 percentage point, stocks could have tumbled and expectations of another cut would have emerged immediately," Ito said.

But the stock market, which has been the largest concern for many politicians, refused to greet the BOJ move with an elated mood.

The key Nikkei Index broke through the 19,000 line a few hours after the announcement of the rate cut, sinking to a five-year low.

"There is no buying interest in the market at all," said Fujio Tatsuuma, chief manager at Mitsubishi Bank's economic research department. "The 0.75 point cut had been fully discounted, and it came as no fresh incentive."

In spite of the monetary and fiscal steps, some analysts expect no rapid improvement in the business climate, saying that drastic inventory adjustments will continue for a while.

"It will take at least until the end of 1992 for the companies to cut their bulging inventories down to size," said Shoji Saito, director and general manager at Sakura Bank's research division.

Mieno conceded at the press conference that the central bank had underestimated the scope of the production restraints to trim stock levels.

And as clear signs that the economy is on the mend will not come for many months, expectations of another cut in the key rate will reemerge in the market and political circles, especially as the July House of Councillors election approaches, Sumitomo's Ito said.

That will be particularly galling to the central bank since it stressed that domestic interest rates have fallen to a historically low level, and argues that further monetary easing will do more harm than good to the economy, according to the analysts.

Then the central bank governor will have to put his reputation as a tough inflation fighter on the line, but history shows that he will find it quite difficult to resist such calls, they said.

"Everybody should remember that the historical pattern in Japan is for the official discount rate to continue to decline until after the economy has started picking up," said Russell Jones, senior economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International.

MOF 'Shocked' by Market Fall

*OW0104115792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT
1 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance was shocked by the sharp falls in stock prices on Wednesday that followed an official discount rate cut by the Bank of Japan and the government's decision on a pump-priming package, ministry officials said.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues fell below the 19,000 mark to finish at a five-year low of 18,581.79 points.

The officials said the market slump reflected the disappointment of investors that no additional stimulus is in sight after the discount rate cut.

The central bank slashed the key interest rate by 0.75 percentage point to 3.75 percent per annum, effective Wednesday.

The decision came one day after the government adopted a package of measures aimed at stimulating the sagging domestic economy, including the front-loading of outlays for public works projects in the new fiscal year, which began on Wednesday.

The officials said the ministry had not studied measures to cope with the market fall and is now waiting for the government's economic package to take effect.

The officials said the ministry is concerned that the protracted stock market slump will further discourage fund-raising by corporations.

"What is worrying the ministry most is panic selling to cause a market crash," said a senior ministry official, adding that the ministry hopes investors will react to the market slump with discretion.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa echoed the ministry's concern, saying, "It seems there is a lot of selling, and selling does not match buying."

Referring to his scheduled meeting Thursday with Minoru Nagaoka, president of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, Miyazawa said he will ask the exchange head to make efforts to ensure healthy growth of the market.

"I'm not going to meet him on the subject of recent ups and downs of stock prices," Miyazawa said.

Ministry Says Housing Starts Continue To Fall

*OW3103062892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0608 GMT
31 Mar 92*

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Housing starts in Japan dropped 7.0 percent in February from a year earlier to 99,436 to mark the 16th consecutive monthly decline from year-earlier levels, the Construction Ministry said Tuesday.

Construction of owner-occupied houses in February increased 10.0 percent from a year before to 33,783, marking the first rise in three months.

Starts on rental houses fell for the 19th straight month, sliding 3.5 percent to 44,716.

Starts on houses and condominiums for sale in February dropped 32.6 percent to 18,303, recording the 11th successive monthly year-on-year drop.

Government Releases Report on Jobless Rate

*OW3103005092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0031 GMT
31 Mar 92*

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Japan's seasonally adjusted jobless rate in February fell 0.1 percentage point from January to 2.0 percent, a preliminary government report said Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted jobless rate has remained stable since June 1989, hovering in a range between 2.0 percent and 2.2 percent, the Management and Coordination Agency said in a report submitted to the day's regular cabinet meeting.

The report said the number of jobless workers increased 10,000 or 0.7 percent over a year earlier to 1.37 million,

resulting in a seasonally unadjusted 2.1 percent jobless rate, down 0.1 percentage point.

The unemployment rate for male workers dropped 0.1 point to 2.1 percent but that for female workers rose 0.1 point to 2.2 percent, the report said.

The number of employed workers in February stood at 63.11 million, up 1.4 million or 2.3 percent from a year earlier, the report said.

Male workers accounted for 37.72 million, up 850,000 or 2.3 percent from a year earlier, while female workers increased 540,000 or 2.2 percent to 25.38 million, according to the report.

The nation's labor force, including the unemployed, totaled 64.48 million, up 1.41 million or 2.2 percent from a year earlier.

Workers aged 15 or over accounted for 102.5 million, an increase of 1.02 million or 1.0 percent from a year earlier, the report said.

It said workers employed in the nonagricultural sectors totaled 50.1 million, an increase of 1.49 million or 3.1 percent.

Employees in the agriculture industry reached 3.08 million, up 170,000 or 5.8 percent from a year earlier, while the number of employees in the construction sector stood at 5.98 million, up 50,000 or 0.8 percent.

The figure for the manufacturing sector was 15.7 million, up 650,000 or 4.3 percent, while workers in service industries totaled 14.84 million, up 620,000 or 4.4 percent from a year earlier.

Retail-wholesale and food-service sector employees totaled 13.97 million, down 200,000 or 1.4 percent from the same month last year, the report said.

The number of the self-employed increased 50,000 or 0.6 percent from a year earlier to 8.3 million but the number of employees depending on them decreased 210,000 or 4.8 percent to 4.2 million, the report said.

The Labor Ministry also reported that the ratio of job offers to job seekers in February stood at 1.25 on a seasonally adjusted basis or the lowest level since April 1989 when it was 1.21.

The February ratio, which means that there were 125 job offers for every 100 job seekers, was down 0.03 percentage point from January.

The ratio of job offers to job seekers has fallen steadily after peaking at 1.47 in March 1991, with February marking the 11th consecutive month in which it fell below level of the previous month.

A ministry official played down the significance of the continued drop in the ratio of job offers to job seekers. "The undertone of the labor market remains tight," the official said, describing the February ratio as "still high."

The official, however, said the ratio could fall below 1.2 in the near future because the ratio of new job offers to job seekers, a leading indicator of the ratio, tumbled 0.13 point to 1.77 in February.

Ministry Cautious About Foreign Workers' Inflow *OW3103140992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—A Labor Ministry report urged the government Tuesday to be cautious about the inflow of unskilled foreign workers.

The annual report on the 1991 overseas labor situation cited confusion being caused by a mass exodus of "economic refugees" from the former Soviet Union and East European countries, as well as by mounting pressure caused by a growing number of emigrants from developing nations.

The report urged rich countries to promote technology transfer and investments to enhance employment opportunities in recipient countries.

Citing figures by the United Nations-affiliated International Labor Organization, the report said the number of emigrant workers around the world increased to about 25 million in 1990 from about 20 million in 1980.

The number of illegal workers exceeded 30 million in 1990, and the number of economic refugees topped 15 million, the report said.

It said former West Germany had to shoulder a heavy burden as a result of accepting unskilled foreign workers to make up for a labor shortage in the 1960s.

The report predicted that in the future Japan would see a mass immigration of workers from newly industrializing economies in Asia.

Japan should promote investment and technology transfer to developing nations, as well as aid to help the countries develop human resources to ease pressure caused by increased labor immigration.

Population Growth Rate Marked Increase in 1991 *OW3003131492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Japan's population growth rate marked an increase in 1991 for the first time since 1973, the Management and Coordination Agency reported Monday.

The nation's population stood at an estimated 124.04 million as of October 1, 1991, up a scant 0.01 percent from the 1990 level.

The population estimation is based on the national census held every five years covering all the people living in Japan for three months or longer.

Of the total, 60.90 million citizens were male and 63.14 million female, the agency said.

The number of people aged 65 or older hit an all-time high, accounting for a record 12.6 percent of the population.

In sharp contrast, the number of those aged 14 or under marked a postwar low, making up 17.7 percent of the total.

The elderly population index measuring how many people aged 65 or older are taken care of by 100 people aged between 15 and 64 also reached a record high of 18.

The number of people who were born in the 1926-88 Showa era accounted for 84.5 percent of the population at 104.79 million, with those born after World War II making up 63.2 percent at 78.42 million.

By prefecture, Tokyo formed the largest bloc with a population of 11.89 million, followed by Osaka with 8.74 million, Kanagawa with 8.04 million, Aichi with 6.72 million, and Saitama with 6.48 million.

Meanwhile, Saitama saw the sharpest population growth at 1.21 percent, followed by Chiba's 1.05 percent, Shiga's 0.98 percent, Nara's 0.97 percent and Ibaraki's 0.87 percent, showing the population influx continuing into the Tokyo and Osaka urban areas.

In contrast, 17 prefectures witnessed a decrease in population. Kochi and Aomori both had population reductions of 0.43 percent, followed by Akita's 0.40 percent, and Nagasaki and Shimane's 0.39 percent.

Panel Recommends Oil Supply Increase in FY 1992

OW3103154692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—An advisory panel to the Minister of International Trade and Industry recommended Tuesday a 2.8 percent increase in Japan's oil supply in fiscal 1992 from the previous year, officials said.

The Petroleum Council's recommendation will increase the supply to 228.28 million kiloliters in the fiscal year that begins Wednesday, they said.

The officials said petroleum demand is easing due to the slower economy but the council set the higher supply figure in view of a growing number of car owners and increasing electricity consumption.

The annual growth in demand from between 1993 and 1996 is estimated at an average of 1 percent.

As for the mandatory stockpile of oil in the private sector, the panel agreed to lower the requirement to the equivalent of 74 days of consumption in fiscal 1992 and thereafter from the 78 day equivalent in fiscal 1991.

Uranium Plant Starts Full-Scale Operations

OW2703031792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0101 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Aomori, March 27 KYODO—Japan Nuclear Fuel Industries Corp. started full-scale operations Friday at its uranium enrichment plant in northern Japan, two months behind schedule.

The 250 billion yen commercial plant, Japan's first, in Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, has been conducting test operations since last November.

It is one of three key facilities of a nuclear fuel recycling complex under construction in Rokkasho.

With the uranium enrichment plant, a nuclear fuel reprocessing facility, and a low-level radioactive waste storage center as its main institutions, the complex is expected to play a pivotal role in Japan's nuclear fuel projects.

In a ceremony at the plant Friday, centrifugal separators and other machinery were officially transferred to the corporation by manufacturers.

The two-month delay in starting full-scale operations was due to troubles with the plant's electricity system, company officials said.

Japan currently relies entirely on foreign imports for its enriched uranium. The Rokkasho plant is expected to supply 25 percent of the country's uranium needs.

New Line of 'Fastest' Supercomputers Launched

OW3103090092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0838 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—Hitachi Ltd. on Tuesday unveiled a new line of supercomputers which it claims are the fastest in the world.

The new water-cooled Hitac S-3000 series Vector supercomputers include 10 models which use one to four processors and have a computing speed range from 0.25 billion floating point operations per second (FLOPS) to 32 gigaflops, a measurement used to gauge a computer's performance.

The major Japanese computer maker will start marketing the new supercomputers Thursday.

Vector supercomputers process problems in sequential order. That differs from massively parallel supercomputers which use hundreds or thousands of processors that are linked together to work on different parts of a single problem simultaneously.

The top-of-the-line S-3800/480 model has slightly over 10 times the processing power of Hitachi's previous best model, the S-820/80 supercomputer, company officials said.

Hitachi will begin shipping the low-end S-3600 series of supercomputers, which include four models, in July at

monthly rental prices ranging from 8.5 million yen to 30 million yen, excluding software, they said.

The company will ship the S-3800 group, which comprises six supercomputers, in January 1993 and the models will have monthly rental prices ranging from 47 million yen to 125 million yen without software, the officials said.

Supercomputers are widely used by scientists and engineers in the auto, electric machinery, steel, construction, aerospace, and petrochemical industries as well as by researchers to perform high-speed calculations.

Government To Set Share for Environment Fund

OW2803102992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1009 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—Japan will decide late next month its share of contributions to an international fund to finance global environmental efforts, government sources said Saturday.

The government will await the outcome of discussions at an April 15-17 international conference on funding hosted in Tokyo by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, the sources said.

Takeshita earlier cited Japan's additional 9 billion dollar contribution to the allied powers during the Persian Gulf war as a benchmark in considering Tokyo's share in global environmental protection efforts.

The debate comes amid concern that funding disputes could hinder the success of this summer's "Earth Summit." The summit, to be held June 1 to 12 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is to gather as many as 100 world leaders to sign such agreements as an earth charter listing government obligations to the environment.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa hopes to attend the summit to refurbish a perception that he is passive on environmental issues, the sources said.

But they said it may be difficult for Miyazawa to go to Brazil because the current Diet session is due to continue until June 21 and because of a House of Councillors election in July.

The Tokyo conference, being held in hopes of ensuring the success of the Earth Summit, will fashion rough plans for financial cooperation, after which the government is to decide on funding.

The secretariat of the Earth Summit has called for some 125 billion dollars from around the world, prompting growing expectations from the international community for Japan to shoulder a large share of the environmental funding burden as a major economic power.

Next month's Tokyo gathering is to draw some 20 influential people from around the world to discuss financial aid to developing countries for environmental preservation.

The sources said the Japanese Government hopes participants will find a breakthrough on the financial problems threatening the Earth Summit, officially called the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Toward that end, they said, Tokyo plans to seek compromise between industrialized and developing countries, which are deadlocked on such issues as conclusion of a treaty to prevent global warming and the allotment of funds for environmental preservation.

In New York conferences to prepare the way for the Earth Summit, the rich and poor countries remain divided over the funding, hobbling discussions on environment conservation in areas ranging from forests to oceans.

Japan, defining global environment protection as a pillar of its international contributions, voiced its willingness to step up cooperation on environmental issues at last year's London summit of seven industrialized nations.

In February, the Foreign Ministry set up an Earth Summit preparatory secretariat and appointed a special ambassador in charge.

North Korea

Joint Military Subcommittee Meeting Detailed

SK3103140692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] The second Military Subcommittee meeting of the North-South high-level talks was held on the South's side of Panmunjom today. Participating in the meeting were Kim Yong-chol, chairman of the Military Subcommittee of the North-South high-level talks, and six members of the subcommittee from our side; and chairman Pak Yong-ok and six members of the subcommittee from the South side. The meeting was held behind closed doors.

After the meeting, chairman Kim Yong-chol held a news conference and informed the reporters of the status of the meeting.

According to him, our side called attention to the fact that in the first meeting we presented a draft of the supplementary agreement for the implementation and observance of North-South nonaggression as stipulated in Chapter 2 of the North-South agreement and a draft agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Military Commission, but the South side had not even brought a draft of the supplementary agreement. Our side then added that this shows an insincere attitude toward the meeting, a neglect of its basic mission and duty, and an avoidance of responsibility to all fellow countrymen.

Chairman Kim Yong-chol refuted the South side's unjust claim that implementation of nonaggression should be discussed, giving greater and lesser priority and greater and lesser urgency to the items discussed depending upon the nature of each. He then made it

clear that the most important and urgent thing in our country is not to install a hotline but to get the U.S. Forces withdrawn from South Korea and to ensure nonaggression at the source by drastically reducing the armed forces of the North and the South.

He then clarified the fundamental position to be observed in the implementation of the agreements on nonaggression and in the operation of the meetings of the Military Subcommittee. This is to maintain the attitude and position of faithfully implementing the North-South agreement in conformity with the aspirations of the nation, to make sincere efforts to resolve the issue of peace in practical terms, and to discard the old concept of confrontation, he stressed. He then proposed that at today's meeting the two sides first discuss the supplementary agreement on nonaggression and then complete the discussion on the supplementary agreement on the formation and operation of the Joint Military Commission so that the agreements initialed by the two sides can be submitted to the seventh round of the North-South high-level talks. He also proposed that the installation of a hotline between the military authorities be discussed according to the order of the clauses of the agreement.

The South side did not bring a draft of the supplementary agreement as it did at the first meeting, but intentionally created complexities and difficulties in the discussion of issues from the outset.

In its speech the South side mentioned a fundamental guideline and said that the two sides have never agreed to make effective the supplementary agreements of the seventh round of the North-South high-level talks. Saying that the supplementary agreements should be made depending upon the results of the discussion, the South side even made the absurd statement that the North-South Joint Military Commission is a consultative body and an organization for pushing forward [chujin kigu].

The South side said that priority should be given to discussing the issues of the formation and operation of the Joint Military Commission and installing a hotline, followed by the supplementary agreement for the implementation of nonaggression. Then, presenting a so-called task for discussion, he insisted that the interpretation of terminology be given first place.

The South side's speech today cast a dark shadow on the future of the Military Subcommittee and the seventh North-South high level talks. It was a tactic for delaying reunification and delaying peace, going against the wishes of 70 million fellow countrymen and revealing the intention to consistently inspire North-South confrontation.

Before evaluating the South side's speech, our side exposed the unjustness of the so-called three principles presented by the South side in the previous meeting. The chairman of our side said: The principle of independence [chuchesong], the principle of resolving the issues by the

parties concerned, which the South side mentioned, is aimed at preventing us from criticizing or checking the United States—which is intervening in the reunification of and peace on the Korean peninsula under the pretext of the principle of the great national unity [as heard] and is stopping the broad masses from participating in the issue of reunification and peace. The principle of pushing forward in a balanced manner is aimed at avoiding the discussion of the central and key issues. The principle of ensuring practice is aimed at justifying such unjust assertions as discussion-first-and-adoption-later and conducting trials [sibom sahang] and creating obstacles to the talks.

The chairman of our side continued: The South side made its own assertion as to what kind of agreement should be made. This is toying with the North-South agreement and the agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South joint committees, and it is a delaying tactic.

He then stressed that the two sides should first write the supplementary agreement on the implementation of nonaggression to ensure peace in Korea.

Our side stressed that in order to form a North-South joint military commission, its organization should first be formed to provide the commission with the work to be done henceforth and that this is the supplementary agreement to be effectuated by the subcommittee before the seventh round of North-South high level talks.

Our side said that it is also our position to discuss the issue of installing a hotline, and to mention the interpretation of terminology is an unjust act aimed at willfully distorting the contents of the agreement.

Our side, saying that the South side came to the meeting emptyhanded and causing delays, gave factual examples that this behavior is intended to pursue its strategic goal of delaying the implementation of nonaggression and to aggravate military tension. Our side asked if it will discuss the supplementary agreement, or if it will present the supplementary agreement on the issues of not using force of arms and peaceful settlement of disputes as set forth in the agreement. Because the South side came to the meeting without the supplementary agreement, our side urged it to begin discussion with our reasonable and practical supplementary agreement. The South side refused to accept our proposal while insisting on its own unjust proposal.

Ending the meeting, our side called the South side to account, saying that it should have a sincere attitude for fulfilling the agreement solemnly pledged to the nation. We also pointed out that there is a rumor that the United States is pressuring the South side to delay the fulfillment of the North-South agreement because it was hastily adopted, and that there is a report that the South authorities adopted a policy that they would not hurry to fulfill the agreement. The South side took part in the second subcommittee meeting under these circumstances, without the supplementary agreement, and

came to the meeting emptyhanded to study how to speak. This is firm proof that the South side has no intention of fulfilling the agreement and that it is intentionally raising obstacles to the high-level talks and subcommittee meetings.

Both sides agreed to hold the third meeting on 30 April.

U.S.-ROK 'Air Espionage' Detailed

*SK0104095992 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0018 GMT 26 Mar 92*

[NODONG SINMUN 26 March special article: "The U.S. Imperialists' Vicious Air War Exercises and Air Espionage"]

[Text] The U.S. imperialist aggressors announced that they will stop the Team Spirit joint military exercise this year. However, they are conducting various war exercises to attack the North, constantly aggravating tension. In particular, the U.S. Pacific Air Force and Navy commands have daily conducted provocative joint air war exercises in the sky above South Korea to attack the North.

No sooner had the formations of nuclear-loaded fighter-bombers and formations of assault planes launched from the Japanese mainland and Pacific bases flown over the Korean peninsula than they had been deployed in operational districts. The commotions of playing with fire are war exercises aimed at perfecting the combined command system and at increasing the capacity for a surprise preemptive attack on targets in the strategic depths of the northern half of the republic, coordinating fighter-bombers and assault planes from the U.S. Air Force in the South with the South Korean Air Force.

In January alone this year, as many as approximately 16,000 warplanes were mobilized in air war exercises staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities under various names in South Korean airspace.

The U.S. imperialists introduced a KC-135 refueling plane from a Pacific base into the sky over South Korea. They staged a mid-air refueling exercise for fighter-bombers mobilized in war exercises. Thus, they have incited a war atmosphere.

Despite the changed situation because of the important agreement confirming nonaggression between the North and the South and the joint declaration on denuclearizing the Korean peninsula being adopted and thus validated, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities still have not changed their attitude toward confrontation and war. Even though they announced that they will not conduct the Team Spirit joint war exercise this year, they have incited the fever to conduct war exercises of various names, though none is called Team Spirit.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities have viciously conducted air espionage on districts in the northern half of the Republic.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Recently, the U.S. imperialists have taken the road of more openly conducting espionage of various types against our country to cause a new war.

It has been known that the U.S. imperialists have set up a 120-day-war scenario, that is, a northward war provocation plan, and that they have fabricated the Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement, which is something that the Army should conclude on the eve of a war, with the South Korean authorities.

The U.S. imperialists have more viciously conducted espionage, inciting the fever for preparing a northward war. The U.S. imperialists have strengthened espionage on the ground and at sea and have mobilized numerous reconnaissance planes deployed in the Far East district, including South Korea and Okinawa. Thereby, they have conducted air espionage on our side's districts on approximately 200 occasions every month.

What is noteworthy about the U.S. imperialists' air espionage of our side's districts is that they are concentrating their efforts on obtaining information necessary for air strike operations.

Originally, the U.S. imperialists, who claimed predominance in air strike operations in conducting an overseas aggression war, said that the efficiency of air strike operations was confirmed in the Persian Gulf war early last year. Now, they are full-fledgedly preparing to apply the air strike experience to the Korean peninsula in case of emergency.

Recently, the U.S. imperialists attached great importance to espionage of the targets in the strategic depths, not to speak of our coastline, and have become overheated in air espionage. This is aimed at seeking to increase the air strike capacity for a real war and to perfect the air strike plan.

What is noteworthy is that the U.S. imperialists have mobilized a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane and have mobilized it more frequently. The U.S. imperialists let a U-2 high-altitude reconnaissance plane make a shuttle flight in the sky along the Military Demarcation Line from the West Sea to the East Sea for several hours. They took pictures of targets in the strategic depths and inland areas of the northern half of the republic. They committed such acts on approximately 95 occasions in January and February alone.

The U-2 high-altitude reconnaissance plane, which was running wild in conducting air espionage, crashed in the East Sea this year.

The U.S. imperialists have also considered air espionage from an E-3A early warning plane valuable.

This year also, the U.S. imperialists brought the E-3A early warning plane into the sky over South Korea from Pacific bases and the Japanese mainland and used it to command the planes mobilized in war exercises. The U.S. imperialists viciously let the E-3A early warning plane make a shuttle flight from the West Sea to the East Sea to take air pictures of targets in the strategic depths and inland areas of the northern half of the republic.

The U.S. imperialists have mobilized the E-3A early warning plane for air espionage. This is aimed at carefully conducting air espionage on targets in our side's strategic depths, using a highly efficient radar and radio electronic equipment installed in the E-3A early warning plane. This is aimed at immediately conducting an air strike operation in case of emergency by using command equipment.

What is noteworthy is that the U.S. imperialists have strengthened electronic reconnaissance in air espionage. The U.S. imperialists let an EH-60, a special electronic warfare helicopter, repeatedly make shuttle flights in the sky above Kanghwa Island and Yonchon areas along the Military Demarcation Line and in the sky above Yonchon and Sokcho. By so doing, they have conducted full-scale electronic espionage on targets in our side's frontline and coastline districts.

Along with this, the U.S. imperialists have daily let an RV-1 Army tactical reconnaissance plane make flights in the sky along the Military Demarcation Line to take pictures and conduct electronic espionage on targets in our side's coastline areas.

In the first two months this year, the U.S. imperialists conducted air espionage on the northern half of the republic on approximately 450 occasions by mobilizing a U-2, E-3A early warning plane, and other strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes.

The U.S. ruling quarters decided that it is none other than the Korean peninsula where a local war most probably may occur after the Persian Gulf area. They have set a plan for a new Korean war. We can never overlook the fact that they have more hysterically conducted espionage on our side.

As the world's history of war shows, such espionage is aimed at provoking a war. This is a premeditated aggressive act on the eve of an outbreak of war.

Publications printed in South Korea and Japan long ago prove that U.S. reconnaissance planes repeatedly flew above the 38th parallel line and constantly conducted air espionage on the eve of the Korean war in 1950. The publications note that in over one year from June 1949 to June 1950 alone, approximately 1,000 cases of espionage on the northern half of our republic were reported to the U.S. State and Defense Departments. The publications also expose that special information reported as long as six months before the war broke out numbered approximately 400 cases. It was none other than the

Korean war that was planned and prepared by the U.S. imperialists with this premeditated espionage.

Judging from historical facts, needless to say, the air espionage on the northern half of the republic currently conducted by the U.S. imperialists is aimed at a preemptive strike against us.

The U.S. imperialists' maneuvers to perpetrate a new war on the Korean peninsula are reaching a grave stage. With the adoption and validation of the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization as an occasion, the entire fellow countrymen and the world peace-loving people hope that a turning point will be opened in the road for Korea's peace and reunification. Such being the case, the commotions of confrontation and war kicked up by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are raising wrath at home and abroad.

Our people and the revolutionary Armed Forces will never pardon the U.S. imperialists for trying to encroach upon our independence.

The United States should look straight at the changed reality of the Korean peninsula, renounce the anachronistic policy of strength, stop military maneuvers and espionage, and take steps to withdraw its aggression forces from South Korea.

The South Korean rulers should also look straight at the trends of the times and renounce their antiquated attitude toward confrontation and war.

State Council Adopts Worker Wage Increase

*SK0104064892 Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON
in Korean 6 Mar 92 p 1*

[Article by unidentified reporter on wage decision adopted by the State Administration Council]

[Text] Recently, the State Administration Council adopted a decision to correctly execute the decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee on enforcing a policy of raising the living expenses of all workers, technicians, and office employees and increasing the income of cooperative farmers, reflecting the consideration of the great leader and the dear comrade leader.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: Not only should we keep in place the most superior people-minded policy wherein the party and state take the responsibility for the people's material life, but we should also expand and develop it further in keeping with the advancing socialist construction.

The decision first endorses as in the attached booklet the "table of living expenses of workers," "table of living expenses for technicians and office employees," "table of additional expenses," "regulations concerning the payment of wages for the employees at state enterprises practicing account settlement," "regulations concerning the state social insurance and social security," and

"regulations on granting scholarships, clothes, textbooks, and school supplies" in connection with the decree on raising the living expenses for all the workers, technicians, and office employees, pensions of those living on social security, and the scholarships of the students of schools at all levels including universities and colleges effective 1 March 1992. The decision also notes the fact that as of 1 March 1992, the State Pricing Committee and other institutions concerned will take measures to raise the state purchase price of rice by 26.2 percent and that of maize by 44.8 percent and the state purchase price of some other agricultural products.

Also noted in the decision are the need for the Ministry of Labor Administration to make another table of occupations and skill grades of workers in each industrial sector in accordance with the revised living expenses of the working people, and to take measures to correct any problems arising in its implementation; on the need for the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance, and the central bank to work out plans and take financial measures in accordance with raising the living expenses of the working people, the pensions of those living on social security and students' scholarships, and increasing the purchase price of agricultural products, as well as the need for the Ministry of Labor Administration and other institutions concerned to work out regulations and guidelines aimed at correctly implementing the measures on raising the living expenses of all working people at an early date, and to arrange lecture meetings for the functionaries concerned.

The decision put particular stress on the need for the State Planning Commission, the Light Industry Commission, the Provincial Administrative and Economic Guidance Committees, and other institutions concerned to take measures to epochally increase the people's consumer goods in keeping with the increasing purchasing power as part of efforts to prove the worth of the measures taken to raise the living expenses and income of working people; the need for central institutions, including committees and ministries, and provincial, municipal, and county administrative and economic guidance committees to make the working people bring about new revolutionary changes in all fronts of socialist construction to live up to the great benevolence and consideration of the party and leader with loyalty by vigorously carrying out the organizational and political work aimed at correctly implementing state measures taken to raise the living expenses of the working people, pensions of those living on social security, and the scholarships of students, and increase the income of cooperative farmers; and the need for the institutions and enterprises to correctly apply the socialist wage payment regulations in conformity with the demand of the principle and rules of distribution, to provide sufficient working conditions, and increase the labor productivity and efficiency without interruption by completely applying the 480-minute labor hours.

The decision notes that in connection with the implementation of the measures taken to raise the living

expenses and increase the income of all working people, the full texts and points of legal provisions in the decisions, directives, ratified documents, and other measures issued by the cabinet and the State Administration Council's decisions before 13 February 1992 that restrain the payment of living expenses and wages and additional expenses, the pensions of those living on social security, and student scholarships are to be made ineffective.

Finally, the decision notes the need for the committees, ministries, and the provincial, municipal, and county administrative and economic guidance committees, and other institutions concerned to take working measures to correctly implement this measure.

Yi Chong-ok, Others Attend Hyon Mu-kwang Funeral

*SK0104021892 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Excerpts] A state funeral service for the late Comrade Hyon Mu-kwang, candidate member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Control Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, was solemnly held in Pyongyang on 30 March. [passage omitted]

Present there were Comrades Yi Chong-ok, Yon Hyong-muk, Kim Yong-nam, Kye Ung-tae, Choe Tae-pok, Choe Yong-nim, Kim Chol-man, Hong Song-nam, Kim Pok-sin, Kang Hui-won, Kim Chung-nin, Yun Ki-pok, Kim yong-sun, Hwang Chang-yop, Pak Nam-ki, Kim Chang-chu, Kim Yun-hyok, Kim Tal-hyon, Chang Chol, Chon Mun-sop, Yang Hyong-sop, other members of the state funeral committee, functionaries concerned, and the bereaved family of the deceased. [passage omitted]

Nonferrous Ore Mine Opens in North

*SK0104104692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1005 GMT 1 Apr 92*

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—Samsu ore mine has been developed in the northern part of Korea.

The mine is promising as there is a big deposit of high-grade non-ferrous metal ore.

The mine has a dressing ground with an annual capacity of hundreds of thousands of tons of ore and several pits equipped with modern mining machines.

Meanwhile, shaft No. 7 of the Nagyon ore mine has been built to increase the non-ferrous metal ore production of the mine.

South Korea

North Official: Nuclear Inspection To Be Allowed

*SK3103131492 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network
in Korean 1200 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Text] North Korea's Han Si-hae, chairman of the Pan-national Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pom-minnyon], who is visiting Japan, said that North Korea

will open all facilities, including Yongbyon, to inspection during the mutual nuclear inspection between North Korea and the ROK scheduled for June, if the ROK side wishes it. This is the first time that a high-ranking North Korean official specifically mentioned the facilities for nuclear inspection.

Nuclear Committee Session Ends Without Agreement

*SK0104055492 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network
in Korean 0500 GMT 1 Apr 92*

[Report by Chong Chang-ung]

[Text] On the morning of 1 April, South and North Korea held the second meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] at the Peace House in our side of Panmunjom and worked to reach an agreement on proposals put forth by both sides at the first meeting. However, because of big differences in opinion, no agreements were reached and it was decided to hold the next meeting on 19 April.

It was learned that our side said that the supplementary agreement to implement the joint declaration on denuclearization, which was proposed by the North side at the first meeting, is not necessary, and, since this only wastes time, urged the North side to provide regulations for inspection by 18 May as already agreed upon, so that an initial nuclear inspection can be carried out before early June.

In this connection, the North side continued to insist that the supplementary agreement be adopted before providing a regulation for inspection. Also, regarding the number of inspections, it was learned that our side repeatedly stated that regular inspection be carried out on nuclear materials and nuclear facilities at least 16 times each year, and that special inspections be carried out on military bases at least 40 times each year. Our side proposed that the number of objects for inspection be the same in the South and the North. However, the North said that the only object for inspection on the North side should be the Yongbyon nuclear facility while the South should carry out inspections of all of U.S. bases. Therefore, no results were achieved.

Libyan Projects To Continue With UN Sanctions

*SK0104095292 Seoul YONHAP in English
0936 GMT 1 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—South Korean contractors will continue with their construction projects in Libya within the framework of not violating the U.N. Security Council [UNSC] sanctions against it, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

The government is not considering dispatch of special charters to ferry back some 5,000 South Korean workers in Libya, the Ministry said.

The decision came in a meeting headed by Assistant Foreign Minister Ho Sung among representatives from other government agencies and construction firms.

"Private companies are preparing individual means to transport the workers at times of emergency, but the consensus at the meeting was that no immediate measures are necessary at this point," Ho said.

The government task force on Libya met in the afternoon to draw up measures after the sanctions imposed on Libya by the U.N. Security Council for its refusal to surrender two Libyan suspects in the 1988 bombing of an American jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Immediate effect of the UNSC sanction is the halt of Korean Air [KAL] flight service from Seoul to Tripoli through Bahrain and Jeddah, officials said.

As the sanctions include an air embargo effective April 15, the government will reroute the weekly flight by Korean Air to Tripoli via Bahrain and Jeddah to Tunisia. KAL's final flight to Tripoli will leave April 13.

"South Korea has requested help from Tunisia on flight rerouting through diplomatic channels and it has promised full support," Ho said.

Four South Korean companies including Dong-ah, Dae-woo, Hyundai and Samsung are in various construction projects in Libya.

South Korea is still to collect 5.8 billion U.S. dollars on completed projects.

7.3 Trillion Won Alloted To Develop Exports

*SK0104030092 Seoul YONHAP in English
0225 GMT 1 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—The government will allot 7.3 trillion won (9.43 billion U.S. dollars) this year to building up South Korea's export competitiveness, with special emphasis on small- and medium-sized businesses, officials said Wednesday.

It will invest 178.8 billion won (231 million dollars) in 800 technology development projects, including 267 new ones.

To ease export procedures, the government will lower mandatory export inspection from 243 products to less than 100 this year, the officials said.

Economic Planning Minister Choe Kak-kyu and Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su reported these measures to President No Tae-u. They are part of a plan to support industry in regaining export competitiveness.

The plan has four parts—technology development, financial and revenue advantages, easing of regulations, and support for small- and medium-sized businesses.

It allots 178.8 billion won to technology development and 96 billion won to localizing 700 major machinery parts this year.

A long-term plan for localization calls for 700 billion won of investment between 1992 and 1996, and 47 joint research and development projects with the Commonwealth of Independent States.

For financial and revenue advantages, the government will give a 10-percent tax deduction for high-tech corporate facility investment and raise the ratio of depreciation from 50 percent to 90 percent for investment in supporting new technology industry.

The scope of tariff breaks on technology imports will be widened from 71 areas and exemption for advanced technological equipment imports will be extended from 1,006 products.

The government will ease regulations for better export conditions, such as financial assistance for companies that import raw materials to make exports.

Other plans include leasing space in factory complexes to small companies and abolishing mandatory export inspections for more than 100 products. The inspection rule will be lifted further next year.

On support for small- and medium-sized businesses, the government will expand the scope of tax breaks on projects related to technology and human resource development. It will invite more smaller companies into the export industry by simplifying the procedures for setting up a business.

For wider financial access, the government will allow small- and medium-sized companies to use collateral held by a third party in getting loans from the special trade fund.

The government will designate 11 million pyong (36.3 million square meters) for 15 industrial complexes in addition to the 9.83 million pyong set aside for this year.

DLP Convention Provisionally Set for 19 May

SK0104064992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0525 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] has provisionally decided to hold its national convention May 19 to pick a candidate for president.

Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam, Co-chairman Pak Tae-chun and Secretary-general Yi Chun-ku discussed the timing of the convention at DLP headquarters Wednesday and agreed to hold it after mid-May.

"We agreed that to delay in holding a convention would cause an overheated and unclear atmosphere, but that to hasten it was also undesirable," Yi said.

"It was decided tentatively that the DLP national convention will convene on May 19," Yi said.

Anti-Kim Yong-sam Groups Form Consultative Body

SK0104022392 Seoul YONHAP in English
0134 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—Leaders of anti-Kim Yong-sam factions in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) have formed a consultative body to help select someone to challenge Kim, the party's executive chairman, for the DLP presidential nomination.

The six-member council, launched at a downtown hotel Tuesday, comprises DLP Co-chairman Pak Tae-chun, Yi Chong-chan, Yi Han-tong, Sim Myong-po, Pak Chun-pyong and Pak Chol-on, according to Pak Tae-chun's aide Choe Chae-uk.

Claiming that the nation's voters wanted a new direction in politics and a new leader, the six leaders decided to hold their individual actions in order to unite anti-Kim forces within the party and put up a single candidate against Kim at the national convention, scheduled for May.

Against this move, former DLP Secretary-General Kim Yun-hwan and eight other senior members got together in another downtown hotel Tuesday to declare their support for the candidacy of the executive chairman. They are Representatives Nam Chae-hui of Seoul, Kim Yong-tae of Taegu, Kim Chin-chae of Pusan, Yi Ung-hui of Kyonggi Province, Kim Chong-ho of North Chungchong Province, Chong Sun-tok of South Kyongsang Province, Chong Chae-chol of Kangwon Province and lawmaker-elect Kum Chin-ho.

At the anti-Kim meeting, Rep. Yi Chong-chan, who has already expressed his plans to seek the DLP nomination for president, said there was no reason for him to oppose an effort to unite the anti-Kim forces.

"I will watch developments closely," Yi said, hinting that he will not make the announcement on his candidacy scheduled for Thursday. Yi has already met with President No Tae-u and Kim Yong-sam to tell them that he intends to become a candidate for the party nomination.

The six members of the council will meet once every two or three days to discuss issues related to uniting the Democratic Justice Party faction of the DLP behind a single candidate.

But the planned meetings are expected to run into difficulties as Pak Tae-chun hopes to get the endorsement of the five other members for his own candidacy while Yi Chong-chan and Rep. Yi Han-tong intend to become candidates if the council fails to pick a single candidate.

Kim Yong-sam's supporters, meanwhile, reiterated their demand that the national convention be on May 9 and No, as DLP president, remain neutral in the presidential candidate selection process.

Members of a DLP faction led by Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil also got together Tuesday and decided to follow developments among the anti-Kim forces of the Democratic Justice Party faction. They believe that their

faction has a decisive casting vote in the power game between the pro- and anti-Kim forces.

Finance Minister Meets World Bank Official

SK0104095892 Seoul YONHAP in English
0903 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—Finance Minister Yi Yong-man met with John Cosgrove, regional director of the World Bank, Wednesday and called for his efforts in improving relations between South Korea and the bank.

Yi and Cosgrove discussed cooperative measures in connection with South Korean loan projects and Yi asked Cosgrove to employ more Koreans in the bank.

Immigration Laws Strengthened To Curb Crimes

SK3103133192 Seoul YONHAP in English
1241 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (YONHAP)—The government will strengthen entry screening of people from Southeast Asian countries and will work out a package of measures to curb foreigners' crimes, Justice Ministry officials said Tuesday.

In a directive to prosecutors and police across the country, Justice Minister Kim Ki-chun said illegal job brokerage rings and entertainment establishments for foreigners should be placed under special surveillance, the officials said.

The ministry will upgrade punishment for foreigners who overstay the legally-permitted period or who are illegally employed here. They may face up to three years' imprisonment or a maximum 3 million won in fines now.

The ministry has mapped out a revision to the immigration control law to the effect of strengthening punishment for illegal foreign workers, imposing imprisonment on their employers and giving penalties to job brokers. The revision bill will be submitted to the forthcoming National Assembly session, the officials said.

The ministry now has only 125 investigators tracing suspicious foreigners and the number will be raised to 300, they said.

The ministry began to ban no-visa entry of Filipinos and Filipinas on Jan. 1 in efforts to stem illegal workers, and has requested the Foreign Ministry to reserve no-visa favors for Nepalese, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis beginning May 1.

The ministry will take over the screening of people who invite Chinese of Korean descent from the Foreign Ministry and will positively consider introducing a system under which visa screening will be launched in Korea only after the Korean trade representative office in Beijing acknowledges the authenticity of the invitations.

According to the ministry, a total of 176,000 foreigners were staying in South Korea as of Tuesday and 28,000 of them were Chinese of Korean ancestry. Some 60,000 of them were illegally staying in Korea and 55,000 of them were employed unlawfully.

Crimes by foreigners have been on the increase in recent years, the ministry said. In 1990, 9,201 foreigners were booked, 3,985 of them for exit-entry law violations. Last year, the number surged 87 percent to 17,245. During the first two months of this year, 3,968 were booked, the ministry said.

Police on Alert for Yakuza Influx

SK0104100492 Seoul YONHAP in English
0904 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—Police went alert across the nation Wednesday after receiving a tip that Japanese gangsters fleeing a crackdown were moving to Korea.

Police, immigration and Foreign Ministry officials have sealed off all the routes of entry into Korea to keep the Yakuza out, a spokesman said.

Suspected Yakuza already here would be chased down, he said.

"As Japan launched a total war against organized crime on Wednesday, there is the strong possibility that some 52,500 members of seven gangs, including the Yamaguchi-Gumi, will flee to Korea," the official said.

The police already have information that some Japanese gangs have invested heavily in Korean entertainment establishments and real estate in tieups with Korean gangsters, he said.

Burma

Regime Leads Diplomatic Tour of Arakan

BK3103100392 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Excerpts] A border region study delegation led by U Ohn Gyaw, foreign minister, and U Soe Nyunt, deputy foreign minister, left Rangoon in military planes on the morning of 29 March. The delegation arrived in Akyab Airport at 1115. Among the members of the delegation were: Mr. Mohammed Qurban, Pakistan ambassador; Mr. B. P. Makadada, Indonesian ambassador; Mr. (Vijessin Awalatuvala), Sri Lankan ambassador; Dr. Svetozar Jovicevic, Yugoslav ambassador; Mr. Tomoya Kawamura, Japanese ambassador; Miss Rosalinda V. Tirona, Philippine ambassador; Mr. Hang Kyung Kim, ambassador of the Republic of Korea; Mr. Ori Noy, Israeli ambassador; Mr. Vadim I. Shabalin, Russian ambassador; Mr. Nguyen Van Tiep, Vietnamese ambassador; Mr. Liang Feng, PRC ambassador; Mr. Kideng Thammavong, Lao ambassador; Mr. Mohammad Hassan Ghanem, Egyptian ambassador; and Mr. Wirasal Futrakun, Thai ambassador; Mr. Lam Peck Heng, Singapore Embassy charge d'affaires ad interim; Mr. (Suyab Prachab Pratin), Nepalese Embassy charge d'affaires; Mr. (Abdulafad Bin Musa), Malaysian Embassy charge d'affaires; and Mr. Gert Merram, UNDP [UN Development Program] resident representative; Mr. Oscar J. S. Lazo, FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization] resident representative; Dr. Klaus Wagner, WHO representative; Mr. (Tiran Sin Shaw), UNICEF representative; Colonel (Valeriy A. Amusov), Russian defense attache; Col. Suzuki Kayanuma, Japanese defense attache; Col. (Damrongsap Vichavala), Thai defense attache; Col. Liu Huanpu, PRC defense attache; Col. S. K. Abu Bakh, Bangladesh defense attache; Col. A. K. Chopra, Indian Defense Attache; Lieutenant Colonel (Augustinus Shinus Wadet); Col. (Kridis Pamuraputra), Thai naval attache; Col. (Sun Kyin Yan), Korean defense attache; Lt. Col. Samah Bin Said, Malaysian military advisor; Col. (Vagileo G. Tutenis), Philippine defense attache; Col. Than Tun, deputy director of defense intelligence of the Defense Ministry; Police Colonel San Thein of the People's Police Force; U Soe Tin, director general of the Office of the Cabinet; U Maung Aung, director general of the Department of Immigration and Manpower; Lt. Col. Phone Myint of the People's Police Force intelligence unit; Lt. Col. Thein Han from the Office of the Work Committee for Development of Border Regions and National Races; and responsible officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry; and correspondents from the local and foreign news agencies. [passage omitted]

The diplomats who were invited by the foreign minister, but who did not go were: Mr. Julian Hartland-Swann, British ambassador; Mr. Franklin P. Huddle, American Embassy charge d'affaires; Mr. Mustafa Farooq Mohammad, Bangladesh ambassador; and Mr. Alain Briottet, French ambassador. [passage omitted]

The delegation left Akyab in helicopters at 1150 and arrived in Buthidaung at 1230. [passage omitted] The members of the delegation were briefed on and shown propaganda fabricated and distributed by Rohingya insurgent organizations RSO [Rohingya Solidarity Organization], ARIF [Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front], and RPF [Rohingya Patriotic Front] in U Ottama Hall in Buthidaung.

Next, the regional study delegation composed of ministers, the regional commander, and a deputy minister left Buthidaung at 1350 and arrived in Kyeinchaung village in Maungdaw Township at 1405. The ministers, regional commander, deputy minister, and the delegation were welcomed by over 3,000 people from Kyeinchaung, Laungdon, Aung Sitpyin, Hmyawchaung, Myochaung, Sagabinyin, Mingyi, Wutkyein, Sabeigon, Dotan, Upper Pyuma, Lower Pyuma, and Nanchaung villages.

First, members of the study delegation were briefed in a temporary pavilion by Dr. Chantha, station doctor from Kyeinchaung, on the situation related to agriculture, social conditions, roads and communications, and local people. Dr. Chantha explained that previously there was only communication by boat between Kyeinchaung and Maungdaw along Pyuma Creek. He said, however, the communication has improved as now Maungdaw can be reached easily on bicycles by roads constructed under the program for development of border regions and national races.

Next, Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw invited the ambassadors and journalists to freely ask questions. Egyptian Ambassador Mohammad Hassan Ghanem, Israeli Ambassador Ori Noy, Korean Ambassador Hang Kyung Kim, Pakistan Ambassador Mohammed Qurban, and an ANTARA correspondent asked questions regarding the local situation, the number of persons leaving for Bangladesh, and the number of persons returning from Bangladesh.

The foreign minister and Dr. Chantha answered questions. Iman Hussan, who returned to Burma from Bangladesh, explained the experience he had while in Bangladesh. The XINHUA correspondent, UNDP resident representative, Japanese ambassador, Japanese defense attache, Egyptian ambassador, Philippine ambassador, and Malaysian defense attache asked him about the details of his experience in Bangladesh. Their questions were answered by Iman Hussan.

The ambassadors, defense attaches, and journalists freely met with the local people in groups and freely asked questions and took notes. U Tint Swe, general secretary of the All Burma Mawlawi League, distributed Korans to the local people.

The ministers, regional commander, deputy minister, and study delegation left Kyeinchaung and arrived in Khamaungzeik village at 1545. The study delegation was welcomed by over 4,000 local people from Weladaung, Laingdi, Khamaungzeik, Ngayanchaung, Naingrakaing, Kyaungnabe, Ye Aung, and Aung Thabye village tracts.

U Hla Maung, chairman of Laingdi Village Law and Order Restoration Council, first briefed the study delegation on the information related to the village population, religious affiliations, the situation in the village regarding social, education, and religious matters, and invited members of the delegation to freely move in the village and ask questions.

U Ba Khin alias Silihi Isman, brother of Nurul Islam, chairman of the ARIF terrorist insurgent organization based in the country on the other side, answered the questions asked by the Egyptian ambassador, the Bangladesh defense attache, the Japanese ambassador, the UNDP resident representative, and the Philippine ambassador. The ambassadors, defense attaches, and local and foreign journalists freely met the local people, and U Tint Swe, general secretary of the All Burma Mawlawi League, distributed Korans to the local people. The delegation left Khamaungzeik at 1635 and arrived back in Sittwe at 1710.

The delegation composed of ministers, the regional commander, a deputy minister, ambassadors, defense attaches, and foreign journalists left Sittwe at 1745 and reached Thandwe [Sandoway] at 1835. [passage omitted] Major General Mya Thin, western commander and cooperatives minister, hosted a dinner for the delegation at Anawa House and the guests were entertained with traditional Rakhine dances. The study delegation viewed the traditional hot air balloon festival and spent the night at Anawa House.

The study delegation led by Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw left Thandwe in military planes at 1330 [on 30 March] and arrived back in Rangoon at 1415.

Rangoon Gives Battle Report for Southwest Region

BK2803033992 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Members of the Defense Services, who are working hand-in-hand with the people in fighting valiantly without regard for their lives, are winning victories in every battle in various military commands. Members of the Defense Services are fighting with the aim of crushing the terrorist insurgents who are disturbing through various means the people who wish to live securely and peacefully under the rule of law.

Southwest Military Command: The Defense Services, hand-in-hand with the people, launched Operation Mon Daing during which nine major battles and 83 skirmishes were fought between 21 March 1991 and 20 March 1992.

On 8 October 1991 a small military column of the Defense Services during a mopping-up operation clashed with about 50 terrorist insurgents from the KNU [Karen National Union] in Htawpaing creek in Bogale Township. Six bodies of insurgents, seven small arms, one walkie-talkie, and much ammunition were recovered and three of our soldiers sacrificed their lives for the country.

During a mopping-up operation on 13 October 1991, a small military column of the Defense Services clashed with about 100 KNU terrorist insurgents near Onbinsu village in Myaungmya Township. During the clash, 59 bodies of insurgents, 59 assorted weapons, two communication sets, and some ammunition were seized by the Defense Services and three of our soldiers sacrificed their lives for the country while five others were wounded.

On 16 October 1991 a military column of the Defense Services clashed with about 70 KNU terrorist insurgents at the mouth of Hlaing Phone Creek in Myaungmya Township. Ten bodies of insurgents and one weapon were seized by the Defense Forces.

On 18 October 1991 a Defense Services column clashed with a group of KNU insurgents at Ayoetargwin in Myaungmya Township. During the clash, 13 enemy bodies and eight assorted weapons were seized.

On 21 October 1991 a Defense Services column clashed with a group of KNU terrorist insurgents near the Tawgyi region of Ngaputaw Township. Ten bodies of terrorist insurgents and three assorted weapons were seized.

Similarly, on 21 October 1991 a Defense Services column clashed with a group of KNU terrorist insurgents at Kwayyaung creek in Ngaputaw Township. During the clash, 17 bodies of terrorist insurgents and 12 assorted weapons were seized.

During the major battles and skirmishes fought between 21 March 1991 and 20 March 1992 in the Southwest Military Command, 317 bodies of terrorist insurgents were recovered, 25 were captured, and three surrendered. The following were captured from the enemy: 251 assorted weapons, including one piece of heavy artillery, 321 rounds of heavy weapons ammunition, 89,907 rounds of small arms ammunition, 311 magazines, 31 assorted hand grenades, 24 assorted mines, six sticks of plastic explosives, 56 slabs and 18 sticks of explosives, 24 soft plastic explosives, four communication sets, 10 walkie-talkies, 28 boats, two Kubota water pumps, and one portable tractor. On our side, 14 soldiers sacrificed their lives for the country and 22 soldiers were wounded.

Members of the Armed Forces, who are working hand-in-hand with the people, the Navy, and the Air Force in fighting valiantly without regard for their lives, are winning victories in every battle in various military commands. Members of the Defense Services are fighting with the aim of crushing the terrorist insurgents who are disturbing through various means the people who wish to live securely and peacefully under the rule of law.

The Defense Services are currently engaged in Operation Thurein Tun and Operation Yan Naing Min in the Northern Military Command region, Operation Aung Hein Moe in the Northeast Military Command region, Operation Kyaw Naing Soe in the Eastern Military Command region, Operation Nagamin and Operation

Than Hlyet in the Southeast Military Command region, Operation Mon Daing in the Southwest Military Command region.

Altogether 1,228 battles including 143 major battles were fought between 21 March 1991 and 20 March 1992. On our side, 302 soldiers sacrificed their lives for the country and 855 soldiers were wounded. During the clashes 1,184 bodies of terrorist insurgents were recovered, 246 terrorist insurgents were captured, and 1,337 assorted arms including heavy artillery were seized. During that period, 594 terrorist insurgents surrendered.

The following were captured from the insurgents: 2,443 rounds of heavy weapons ammunition, 164,812 rounds of small arms ammunition, 1,132 magazines, 828 assorted mines, 285 assorted hand grenades, 3,713 sticks and 12.55 viss [1 viss equals 1.6 kg] of plastic explosives, four communication sets, one exchange switchboard, three telephones, 27 walkie-talkies, two television sets, 48 assorted engines, 20 boats, 126 mules and horses, 63.1785 kg of heroin, 594.357 kg of opium, 1,298.50 viss of jade, 1,111,870 kyats and 34,920 Thai baht in cash, 421 baskets of paddy, 2,221 bags of rice, 92 feet of detonating wire and 7,087 detonators, nine bulldozers, eight motor vehicles, 773 head of cattle, three elephants, one portable tractor, 7,992 teak logs, 734 tons of teak, two generators, and seven motorcycles.

The Armed Forces and the Navy have been joining their efforts for the security of Burmese territorial waters, with continuous surveillance by boats. Thus, during 21 March 1991 and 20 March 1992 a total of 281 poaching and smuggling boats and 2,763 poachers and smugglers were seized together with 25 assorted small arms, 6,499 rounds of assorted ammunition, and 60 viss of bird's nest. Two terrorist insurgents surrendered during that period. The total value of the seized boats, engines, and other articles were 214.35 million Kyats.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Military Chief Favors ASEAN Military Exercise

BK2803091092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0657 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 28 (OANA/BERNAMA)—ASEAN can expect the emergence of new power centres that could be destabilising to the region's security with the on-going withdrawal of two superpower forces from the region, outgoing Malaysian Chief of Defence Forces Gen. Hashim Mohamed Ali said Saturday.

He said the collision of the strategic interests (of the new powers) in this region would continue to be ASEAN's main concern and worry in the years ahead.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.

He said major powers like China, Japan and India could exert themselves in the region in the future although this might not be likely in the short and medium term.

The two superpowers were the United States and the former Soviet Union military forces, he told students of the Armed Forces Defence College and Armed Forces Staff College during a dialogue at the Ministry of Defence, here.

ASEAN needed to closely monitor developments in China as the republic still remained a socialist state ruled by the Communist Party of China, said Gen. Hashim who is due to retire on April 14.

In addition, he noted, China continued to modernise its forces although other major powers were cutting back their military expenditures, and recently China stated that it would use force to claim its rights in the region (Spratlys).

However, the three powers appeared to have some constraints, he said.

Gen. Hashim said Japan, although an economic superpower with political influence, was faced with major constraints in terms of defence, domestic factors like public apathy and its constitutional provisions.

India also faced domestic problems where its economic downturn had taken its toll on the military although the country was embarking on a new economic order, from a socialist system to a broader western liberal system of economy.

Speaking to reporters later, he said the views were his own, and not that of the ministry.

In response to a question, he said there was no plan to set up an ASEAN military pact in the region.

"In my personal view, I do not agree that ASEAN set up such a pact and that we need now is to tighten what we have in the region. But I do agree we should have some sort of bilateral or multilateral military exercises in the region," he added.

Two UK Frigates Purchased for Royal Navy

BK3103144092 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia
Network in English 1330 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Malaysia has signed a 1.4- to 4-billion-ringgit contract with Britain's GEC-Marconi Company for the purchase of two frigates for the Royal Malaysian Navy [RMN]. Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said after the signing that the frigates would be delivered in four years.

Today's contract was the fourth of six procurements under the 4.6-billion-ringgit memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries in 1988. The

first was for the purchase of a long-range air defense radar, followed by the procurement of a command, control, communications, and intelligence system, and the purchase of Hawk aircraft last year. The remaining two come under plans to set up army bases in Mersing in Johor and Gemas in Negeri Sembilan.

Under the contract signed today, the first frigate is expected to be delivered in 45 months, followed by the second three months later. Datuk Sri Najib said the purchase of the frigates is essential as the RMN is now operating with ships 20 or 25 years old, which are inadequate for patrolling the country's 320-km Exclusive Economic Zone. The contract will train (?personnel) and offer programs for some parties like University Technology Malaysia, the Defense, Science, and Technology Center, Aerod [Aviation Maintenance Center], naval dockyards, and possibly a few local companies to be involved in some aspects of the electronic installations of the frigates.

Singapore

Australia Offers SAF Use of Training Sites

BK3103042892 Singapore *THE SUNDAY TIMES*
in English 29 Mar 92 p 15

[By Matthew Pereira]

[Text] Australia has offered the Singapore Armed Forces the use of any of its military training facilities, Defence Minister Yeo Ning Hong said last night.

Returning home from an eight-day visit to Australia and New Zealand, he said that Canberra also offered the SAF [Singapore Armed Forces] the use of two training areas now being developed.

On its part, Singapore has invited the Australians to hold land, air and sea exercises here with SAF troops.

Speaking to reporters at Changi Airport, Dr. Yeo said: "The Australian government has been very generous in its offers to us and has told us to take advantage of the facilities they have.

"They have indicated that any time we require any of their facilities, we could let them know and could get the officials to work together.

"Whether it is training in the south-eastern part of Australia, the north, or training in western Australia, we're always welcome."

The SAF will be exploring the possibilities with the Australians, he added.

He said he also accepted the Australian offer for the SAF to train at two new training areas—Tindal and Delamere, both about 300 km south of Darwin—once they are fully developed.

Singapore is expected to deploy an air force detachment at Darwin next month, the air base the Australians opened to the Singapore air force just a few days ago.

The Australians have also agreed to allow Singapore air force teams to train there for 10 months a year, up from two months a year when it was deployed at Amberley, near Brisbane.

During his trip, Dr. Yeo briefed Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating on the Memorandum of Understanding Singapore signed with the U.S. in 1990 as well as the recent agreement between Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and President George Bush on the possibility of transferring a naval logistics unit from Subic, the Philippines, to Singapore.

He described Singapore's relationship with New Zealand, where he spent the past three days, as "slightly different".

New Zealand is going through a period in which its strategic thinking is undergoing a change. But the SAF had men on exercises and training there.

The trip was Dr Yeo's first visit to the two countries since he assumed his defence portfolio last July. He has extended an invitation to his counterparts from the two countries to visit here.

He was accompanied by Mr. Matthias Yao, Parliamentary Secretary (Defence); Mr Lim Siong Guan, the First Permanent Secretary (Defence); Major general Ng Jui Ping, the Chief of Army and Acting Chief of Defence Force; and senior SAF officers.

Cambodia

Military Chiefs Discuss Kompong Thom Cease-Fire

BK0104095192 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of the Khmer*
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Military commanders of the four Cambodian parties in Kompong Thom Province have met to discuss cease-fire violations at a hotel in Kompong Thom. UN Peacekeeping Force officials were optimistic that the talks on Monday [30 March] night will end the cease-fire violations on the various battlefields in Kompong Thom Province, where sporadic clashes have taken place over the past three months. Over the past few weeks, fierce fighting has led to 100 people being killed and thousands fleeing the area.

General Michel Loidon, commander of the UN peace-keeping force in Cambodia [title as heard], told REUTER at the start of the talks that a restoration of the cease-fire is in the interest of all Cambodian parties. He added that the fighting did not benefit any party.

Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and State of Cambodia troops fought last week to control Route 12 which leads to northern Cambodia. Two PDK military

commanders left their headquarters in the northern part of Kompong Thom Province by UN helicopter to take part in the cease-fire talks.

Last week, a meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group to end the fighting which threatens the cease-fire agreement, was held in Phnom Penh. However, the meeting adjourned on Saturday without results. The outcome of the talks could pave the way for the deployment of UN peacekeeping force in the Kompong Thom according to the Paris agreement signed by the four Cambodian parties to end the 13-year-old war in Cambodia.

UN Advance Team Deploys

*BK0104095292 Hong Kong AFP in English
0938 GMT 1 Apr 92*

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 1 (AFP)—The United Nations set up a hot line linking Cambodia's four factions Wednesday and deployed an advance group of peacekeepers to the scene of recent fighting in central Cambodia, top UN officials said.

The advance mission of 16 is preparing the way for a large contingent of peacekeepers to supervise a negotiated peace in Kompong Thom, the scene of intermittent fighting between Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh Government forces.

"We have a ceasefire and we are now working out a ground deployment in the countryside in order to open up routes and verify a separation of forces," said Lieutenant General John Sanderson, the UN military commander here.

The advance mission means the factions are close to a solution ending the conflict in Kompong Thom, where fighting since January has posed a looming threat to the peace treaty ending the civil war which was signed in October.

The faction generals still have a few details to negotiate, but once they agree on peace lines, men of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) will move in to supervise them, perhaps as early as this weekend, Sanderson said.

Khmer Rouge forces withdrew Tuesday from National Routes 12 and 6, Sanderson said.

The Phnom Penh Government said it had attacked Khmer Rouge forces on Route 12 after sections of it were captured during fighting. Sanderson said the Phnom Penh army was working on demining the route.

An Indonesian battalion has been ready to deploy to Kompong Thom for two weeks, but fighting prevented UN forces from entering a danger zone.

"This should lead to an improved climate of confidence in which to build the second phase of deployment," UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi said at a press conference.

Akashi, who earlier presided over a meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), said the hot line between the factions and UN headquarters was set up with rudimentary equipment, but would be upgraded within three months.

"I hope the establishment of a hot line will contribute to an atmosphere of mutual confidence and avoidance of misunderstandings which can arise in this period," he said.

At the SNC meeting of faction representatives, Akashi also handed out an election law which will govern the balloting period through May 1993 and announced a deployment schedule that will put another 4,000 soldiers in Cambodia in the next three weeks.

Battalions are due from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India.

About 100 police officers from Singapore arrived Wednesday.

At the SNC meeting, all sides agreed to allow UN civilian officials to preside over technical working groups in such areas as civil administration, finance, reconstruction, and human rights.

The areas correspond with those to be placed under UN supervision as part of the peace plan, but each working group would have representation from all factions.

All parties also signed a statement affirming that refugees being repatriated from the Thai-Cambodian border have "free choice of destination ... and will not be subject to persecution, prosecution, or discriminatory measures."

During the upcoming visit of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, all the factions will be asked to sign international covenants on human rights, Akashi said.

The covenants are offshoots of the International Declaration on Human Rights.

"They have some teeth, as opposed to a moral declaration," Akashi said.

The SNC was missing three of its most important figures—Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan, and FUNCINPEC chief Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Hun Sen was on the last leg of a trip to Japan, Washington, and Paris. Prince Ranariddh is a professor in France and could not get away. The reason for Khieu Samphan's absence was not given.

The SNC is supposed to represent the sovereignty of Cambodia while it is under UN supervision until elections are held in 1993.

Union Front Urges Checkpoint

BK0104013092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Unattributed commentary: "The Fighting in Kompong Thom Will End Automatically If There is a Control by UN Transitional Authority and Cambodian Quadripartite Groups at the Foot of Kompong Thom Bridge to Avoid Vietnam from Sending in Its Troops and Arms"]

[Text] The Vietnamese aggressors' military campaigns in Kompong Thom Province have caused the fighting there to expand extensively, thus bringing heavy losses to lives and property of the Cambodian people and seriously threatening the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

The main cause of the fighting in Kompong Thom Province as well as the continued war throughout Cambodia is the fact that the Vietnamese aggressors have refused to implement the 23 October Paris agreement. As a matter of fact, Vietnam has maintained its aggressor forces of all categories in Cambodia and has been free to send troops and ammunition to Cambodia any time it likes without being checked.

Through experiences gained in the past as well as in Vietnam's 13-year war of aggression against Cambodia, a clear truth can be drawn up—that is Vietnam's promises are absolutely untrustworthy. Through these experiences, the 23 October Paris agreement sets clear measures to supervise the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia and avoid all Vietnamese forces and their arms and ammunition from returning to Cambodia.

But over four months have elapsed and there has been no supervision on the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. The Cambodian-Vietnamese border passes in the eastern part of Cambodia are still open, thus enabling the Vietnamese to send troops and ammunition to Cambodia any time they like. This is the cause for war to continue both in Kompong Thom Town and elsewhere throughout the country.

If no timely measure is taken to check such a situation, war will continue and the 23 October Paris agreement will certainly become just a meaningless piece of paper like the 1962 Geneva agreement on Laos and 1973 Paris agreement. That is, it will be used by Vietnam to realize its aggressive strategy to occupy Cambodia.

What measures should be taken? Measures are already defined in the 23 October 1991 agreement. The implementation of these measures requires the deployment of the supervision forces of the United Nations and the four Cambodian groups in all areas, particularly the passes along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border which stretches from Ratanakiri to Koh Kong Province.

As for Kompong Thom Town, there must be an immediate deployment of the UN Peacekeeping Force and four Cambodian groups.

If there is any difficulty with inspecting the fighting on the spot, these supervision forces should be deployed at the foot of the bridge leading to Kompong Thom Town in order to avoid Vietnam from sending its troops, arms, and ammunition to this battlefield. If this is done, the fighting in Kompong Thom will end automatically.

India Ready To Send Troops

BK0104100092 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 1 Apr (SPK)—Hor Namhong, State of Cambodia's foreign minister and member of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), received in Phnom Penh on Friday Mr. Mehrotra, Indian Government secretary in charge of foreign affairs.

Hor Namhong informed his guest about the current preparations for the international conference in Tokyo on Cambodia's rehabilitation, particularly in the [words indistinct] with India.

Hor Namhong also voiced concerns over the continuous violations of the peace agreement by the Khmer Rouge.

For his part, Mr. Mehrotra stressed that India is ready to send its troops and medicine as part of the activities by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) at the proposal of Mr. Akashi, UNTAC chief.

SPK Describes Situation on Eve of Repatriation

BK3003055292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0421 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 30—The first of 370,000 refugees are due to begin returning to an unstable Cambodia this week as the Phnom Penh Government was expected Sunday to announce an offensive to recapture a vital road from the Khmer Rouge.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk said he might cancel official visits to China and North Korea next week if the "very serious and very dramatic situation" continued.

"The Khmer Rouge military activity can be noticed not just in (central) Kompong Thom" but in other parts of central and western Cambodia, the prince said at a ceremony to release mostly Khmer Rouge prisoners of war (POW's) captured over the last 12 years.

"We are facing a very serious problem" Prince Sihanouk said.

But UN Peacekeeping Forces Chief Yasushi Akashi downplayed the fighting, despite being told by Foreign Minister Hor Namhong at the ceremony Sunday morning that Phnom Penh would announce "an attempt to open Route 12" leading from Kompong Thom to the northern city of Preah Vihear.

Preah Vihear has been cut off by Khmer Rouge forces in sporadic fighting since January.

The offensive would also be seen as a challenge to Akashi to show that the United Nations would not tolerate such flagrant acts, diplomats said.

Akashi said the situation would not affect the scheduled return Monday of the first group of refugees from camps on the Thai-Cambodian border.

Some 600 people are expected to be resettled in the northwestern Sisophon area this week under the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) program.

Prince Sihanouk and Akashi were to go to Sisophon for a welcoming ceremony.

"I would not exaggerate the importance of developments in one part of Cambodia", Akashi said. "I have always thought (repatriation) would be a bumpy process ... (but) there looks to be no delay".

The United Nations is in the process of deploying its largest-ever peacekeeping operation, but battalions are being kept out of central Cambodia until the situation is defused.

Lieutenant General John Sanderson, who directs the military contingent of the UN forces, has said he would not send troops into a combat situation.

Instead, he wants Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh forces to agree to retreat, after which UN peacekeepers would enforce the peace lines.

"Last time I looked, we were peacekeepers, not peace-makers", one UN military officer said.

Akashi said UN officials would meet Sunday afternoon to discuss what measures to take in the event of a large-scale Phnom Penh offensive.

Prince Sihanouk is due to leave for North Korea and Beijing on April 7 and return 10 days later for an expected visit by UN Secretary-general Butros Butros-Ghali, Akashi said. While the prince offered to cancel his trip if the situation required his presence in Cambodia, Akashi said he would not ask him to.

Sunday's release of 31 political prisoners and POWs brought to 642 the number of prisoners released under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said outgoing local delegation chief Jean-Jacques Fresard.

"The file is not completely closed", Fresard said, "because there are certain detainees whose legal status remains imprecise for the moment (and) because we are awaiting an invitation from the (Khmer Rouge) to allow us to visit their zone of control and inspect for political prisoners".

Prince Sihanouk said he had asked Khmer Rouge leaders to allow the ICRC to carry out their inspection as dictated under the peace treaty, but he could do no more.

SNC Members Reaffirm Support for Refugee Rights

BK0104140592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Apr 92

["Concerning the Refugee Issue"]

[Text] Members of the Supreme National Council [SNC] have noted with satisfaction the successful start of the repatriation of Cambodian refugees. SNC members would like to reaffirm the fundamental principle of free choice of the final destination in Cambodia for Cambodian refugees. We specify these refugees and war refugees returning home through the organization stipulated in the Paris peace agreement will not be subject to mistreatment, accusation, punishment, or separation based on their reasons for leaving Cambodia or their status as refugees or war refugees, their political affiliations, or activities which had cause them to leave, without the infringement of international law. [as heard]

Pursat Province To Receive 1,397 Refugee Families

BK0104140492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1104 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 1—A seminar on the repatriation of the Cambodian refugees from Thai-border camps had been organized in Pursat Province between March 27 and 28.

The seminar was attended by the provincial officials, representatives from all districts of the province and representatives of [UN]HCR [High Commissioner for refugees], WFP [World Food Program], MSF [Medecins Sans Frontieres], COR [Christian Outreach], and DIMESTRIC [expansion unknown], who worked in the province.

The two-day seminar mainly focused on the preparation for receiving the refugees, the distribution works, the role of the distribution workers and the Red Cross duties.

For the first step of the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from camps in Thailand, Pursat Province has to receive 711 families out of the 1,397 families planned to be settled down in the province, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

Son Sann Comments on Antiopposition Threats

BK0104093992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, chairman of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, said threats and attempted murder against those opposing the Phnom Penh regime will delay national reconciliation.

H.E. Son Sann said this in an interview with a representative of the Voice of Khmer radio. He said he very much regretted the attempted murder and intimidation of politicians who oppose the Phnom Penh regime

because this will delay Cambodian national reconciliation. He said attempts to prevent people from desiring human rights and democracy will fail because the Cambodian people can judge by themselves, are courageous, and want freedom. Therefore, measures to eliminate this freedom will cause Cambodians who yearn for freedom to defect, set up, or to support parties that adhere to genuine democracy like the KPNLF.

H.E. Son Sann further said the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia or UNTAC, will ensure this security when they are fully deployed. This would lessen the security issue in Cambodia.

On the presence of Vietnamese civilians in Cambodia, H.E. Son Sann reiterated his appeal to the Cambodian and Vietnamese people to cooperate with one another on the basis of justice as the two nations are neighbors. He said Vietnam's unjust aggression against the Cambodian nation should stop. He called on Hanoi leaders to consider his appeal.

CPP, SOC Voice Support for Sihanouk

*BK3103125392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT
31 Mar 92*

[31 March "Statement of the Cambodian People's Party and State of Cambodia Government"—read by announcer]

[Text] In a communique issued by his Cabinet on 26 March, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Father of the Cambodian Nation, head of state of Cambodia, and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], decided to stop presiding over all work sessions of various committees. He did so because of the objections raised by certain groups of so-called patriotic Cambodian politicians mostly residing abroad, especially in France, who said that HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia did not have any right to chair the work sessions and considered illegal the decision made on 12 February 1992 concerning the establishment of the Committee for the Rehabilitation of Cambodia's Ancient Temples and Museums. On this issue, the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of Cambodia [SoC] Government would like to make the following solemn declaration:

1. We entirely reject all accusations made by the above-mentioned groups of so-called politicians and consider them null and void because these so-called politicians have no right to object to the decisions of HRH the chairman of the SNC; only members of the SNC have the right to do so. And so far not even one SNC member has raised any objection. In fact, these accusations have been made only to disturb the peace process and slow down the national rehabilitation and reconstruction work in Cambodia.

2. We reaffirm that not only are all activities made and decisions taken on all issues by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia legal, but they are also important

and constructive and respond to the earnest wishes of the Cambodian people, the children and grandchildren of the Prince Father.

3. We unreservedly support the august activities and tireless fruitful efforts of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia for peace and national rehabilitation and reconstruction in Cambodia.

4. We earnestly beg HRH the Father of the Nation, head of state of Cambodia, and chairman of the SNC to please continue to preside over the work sessions of various committees created at his very enlightened august instruction. No one can deny the genuine and irrefutable priceless-ness of these fruitful and clear-sighted work sessions.

The CPP and SoC Government together with the entire Cambodian people and the international community have clearly observed that great progress has been achieved under the august leadership of the Prince Father, the cool shade for all of his Cambodian children and grandchildren. The CPP and SoC Government firmly believe that no one besides the Prince Father has the capacity to accomplish such priceless and effective undertakings capable of determining the destiny of the Cambodian nation.

Phnom Penh 31 March 1992

Laos

Fifth Plenary Session of LPRP CC Reported

*BK3104150192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio
Network in Lao 1200 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[News release on the Fifth Plenary Session of the 5th Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee; date not given]

[Text] The Fifth Plenary Session of the 5th Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [5th LPRP CC], which was convened between 20 and 30 March 1992 under the chairmanship of Kaysone Phomvihane, chairman of the LPRP CC, was concluded with brilliant success. The plenary session reviewed and assessed the organization of implementation of the resolutions of the 5th LPRP Congress in the past year. At the same time, it also mapped out the direction of tasks for the year 1992, aimed at more vigorously and comprehensively implementing the cause of restructuring so as to take the country forward more firmly and to securely defend the country.

The plenary session discussed in depth the detailed direction and policy to promote comprehensive agricultural production (?produce commercial goods) and (?link it to) rural development, the building and development of model farming families, (?the implementation of the principle of centralized management) [words indistinct], the transformation of inefficient enterprises into other forms of ownership, the consolidation of work, and the (?policy) on promoting foreign economic relations and foreign investment in all spheres of work in our country. At the same time, the

session also emphasized intensification of the leadership of the party committees at all levels under the responsibilities of various services to upgrade the national defense and public security maintenance work among the entire masses, link the grass-roots building with [words indistinct], and develop and enhance the role of the Armed Forces to engage in the national development and construction work.

In addition to pointing out the outstanding achievements attained by our entire party, Army, and people in the past year, the plenary session also voiced frank criticism and comments on the remaining weak points, shortcomings as well as [words indistinct] in implementing the line, plans, and policies outlined at the 5th LPRP Congress by analyzing causes and (?laying down) some methods and measures aimed at resolving each problem and doing away with certain shortcomings and negative phenomena, increasing the unity in the party leadership and state management, and upholding the responsibility and faith of cadres and state employees with a view to organizing implementation of the party's policies in order to make them more fruitful.

The plenary session noted that in the present, the hostile forces have actively carried out movements in various forms and through various cunning tricks, aimed at sabotaging and destroying our popular democratic regime.

Therefore, our entire party, Army, and people must further uphold the spirit of patriotism, maintain a sense of unity and oneness, constantly maintain a sense of vigilance, and actively take part in fulfilling the two strategic tasks of national defense and national construction, thus bringing progress and prosperity to our country and better welfare to our multiethnic people.

Army Mass Media Personnel Hold Annual Meeting

BK3103103192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 27 March, the editorial staff of the Army newspaper and radio broadcasting programs held an official meeting to review the achievements fulfilled in 1991 and to map out a new direction of tasks for the new year. Presiding over the meeting was Major General Chanko Phimmason, deputy director of the Lao People's Army General Political Department.

The meeting pointed out several fundamental favorable gains made by cadres and combatants in this service in the past year. Particularly, they endeavored to overcome numerous obstacles to brilliantly fulfill the duties entrusted by the higher level. In the meantime, many remaining problems were also raised for the service to resolve in the new year. The participants studied the direction of the new tasks that must be fulfilled by the service, primarily in providing ideological and political study to the cadres and combatants aimed at improving the quality of the Army newspaper and radio programs so as to make them a genuine outlet of information for the national defense and public security maintenance forces. At the same time, meritorious certificates—five

from the Ministry of National Defense and eight from the General Political Department—were presented to a number of cadres with outstanding achievements.

After that, Maj Gen Chanko Phimmason addressed the meeting, noting the overall situation of our party in continuing to effect the cause of restructuring. At the end, he called on all cadres and combatants engaging in mass media work to strive to study in order to increase their knowledge, and to serve society and the country, thus becoming a true source of information for our national defense and public security maintenance forces.

Philippines

Ministry Voices 'Sadness' Over Libya Sanctions

HK0104045992 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] has expressed sadness over a decision to impose sanctions against Libya. However, the DFA is hoping that Libya will abide by the United States' request for it to turn over the terrorists involved in the Lockerbie plane explosion. In its dialogue with the government, Radio Patrol [ABS-CBN mobile unit] learned that DFA Secretary Raul Manglapus has had a contingency plan prepared for the Philippine Embassy in Libya as of last month. But it was alleged that an evacuation plan would not be implemented if there is still a possibility of a peaceful solution to the country's problem. The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration estimates that there are over 5,000 government and medical workers in Libya.

Meanwhile, a report from Libya states that there are over 20,000 Philippine workers, including dependents, in that country.

Dependents Advised To Leave

HK0104122392 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon announced that the Philippines will participate in ensuring the safety of thousands of Filipinos who are still in Libya. The air and arms embargo was enforced by the United Nations in order to force Libya to surrender the suspected airline bombers.

[Begin Drilon recording in English] We have already alerted the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli and the dependents of our workers there have already been advised to leave since they do not have any contracts which would be binding to their employers. Plans are being prepared, the embassy team is now checking on the physical location of the Filipinos, and they have already started to identify possible land routes should the air embargo take effect on April 15. [end recording]

✓ **PNP Sends Cambodia Peace Force Contingent**

*HK0104114992 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 1 Apr 92*

[By Francis Calado]

[Text] The first contingent of Philippine National Police [PNP] men departed today to join the United Nation's peacekeeping force for Cambodia's war zones. PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno said that the first contingent comprising 75 men, is just part of the 155 men coming from the PNP. A total of 850 men coming from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, particularly the Army, Air Force, and Navy will also join the U.N. force. The first contingent, led by Senior Inspector Manuel Garlan, will serve as observers. Deployment of the second batch will be based on the observations of the first. They will be under the leadership of Australian Major John Anderson, chief of the UN authority in Cambodia. The Philippine soldiers sent to Cambodia will each receive regular allowances and salaries amounting to \$130 per day, on top of other benefits given by the United Nations.

Taiwan Labor Market To Allow Philippine Workers

*HK0104035492 Manila BUSINESS WORLD
in English 1 Apr 92 p 12*

[By Arnold Belleza]

[Text] In the strongest sign so far of the Philippines' formal entry into the Taiwan labor market, the 11 local recruitment firms accredited for the Taiwan Special Employment Program have been given authorization to start recruiting.

In a letter to Labor Secretary Nieves Confesor, Ta Jen Liu of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Manila said the 11 firms so far accredited by Taiwan may now begin recruiting workers even in the absence of implementing guidelines.

A listing of what skills and how many workers will be needed was not detailed in the letter dated March 20, but earlier pronouncements by the labor department said Taiwan will be needing some 15,000 workers in the short term for six major industries.

Over the next six years, Taiwan is expected to need some 300,000 workers, forcing the island-nation to source manpower from the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

Only 11 local firms have been accredited so far, Taiwan having set a limit of 15. These agencies' names have yet to be officially released, but documents obtained from the labor department have identified the 11 as follows: Manpower Resources of Asia, Inc.; Alga-Moher International Placement Services; Northwest Placement Inc.; Cherub Manpower Inc.; Sameer Overseas Placement; Engineering Equipment Inc.; Pacific Ventures Inc.; 7107

Island Placement and Promotions; Career Planners Specialists International Inc.; and Ideas Services and Development Company, Inc.

These agencies have been chosen on the basis of their track records in the Philippine overseas employment program and will be assigned four other licensed local recruitment firms as co-agents.

These 11 firms have already drawn up their co-agent list, but Labor Secretary Nieves Confesor has said this list will have to be revised because several members, the names of which she refused to disclose, have been implicated in the illegal deployment of domestic helpers to Kuwait.

In another development, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) announced that the last day for filing Gulf War compensation claims will be on Friday [3 April].

The program, begun February 5, is in compliance with the guidelines established by the UN Compensation Commission, established by the UN to handle claims against Iraq.

The OWWA said registrations and applications will be accepted at the DOLE, OWWA and POEA main offices and its regional branches.

Manila Deports Arrested PRC Fishermen 31 Mar

*HK0104115092 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0835 GMT 1 Apr 92*

[By Dick Sinchongco]

[Text] Malacanang has announced the release of seven Chinese fishermen, who were caught illegally fishing in Philippine waters, after consultations with the People's Republic of China. The Chinese fishermen were arrested on 17 March on an island near Palawan Province, but were deported to China on 31 March. It is recalled that Pagasa Island, which is part of the Spratlys, is claimed by the Philippines and other countries, including the PRC.

Government Stresses Ban Remains on Marcos Corpse

*HK0104015292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino
People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Text] Malacanang has reemphasized that the ban remains on the return of former President Marcos' corpse. President Aquino also stressed that until the Marcos family presents the burial plans for approval by Malacanang, the government will not lift the ban.

In this regard, Malacanang has ordered the Philippine consular office in Hawaii to conduct 24-hour surveillance of the former president's tomb so no unauthorized persons will try to get the body and smuggle it into the Philippines.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon has ordered Transportation Secretary Nicomedes Prado to suspend or

revoke the permits of any commercial or private plane operators who may bring back the Marcos remains without permission.

Malacanang issued these orders after receiving reports that the former first lady, Imelda Marcos, declared she no longer needs approval for the return of her husband's corpse. Mrs. Marcos said it was agreed that the corpse would be taken directly from Hawaii to Laoag, Ilocos Norte.

Election Body Wants Private Armies Dismantled

HK3103040392 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 30 Mar 92 pp 1, 13

[By Lynda Jumilla and Dave Veridiano]

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] yesterday gave the Philippine National Police [PNP] until April 30 to disarm and disband the remaining 78 private armies all over the country.

The poll body issued the order at a command conference with the PNP and the Armed Forces in Camp Crame to draw up the final security plan for the May 11 elections.

PNP Director General Cesar P. Nazareno told the commission that of the 142 private armies last year, 15 have been "neutralized" 45 "rendered inactive," and 14 found to be non-existent.

He said among those dismantled were that of the Perez clan of Nueva Ecija, the Degranos of Batangas, the Imperial, Nepomuceno and Ziga clans of Albay, the Alandos of Lanao del Norte, and eight other armed groups composed of civilian volunteer organizations and members of civil security units in Angeles City.

Nazareno said the remaining 78 have an estimated membership of 4,710 men, with at least 4,357 different types of firearms.

Before the command conference, Nazareno had ordered all provincial and regional police directors to dismantle the remaining armed groups by April 30 which was also the PNP's self-imposed deadline.

The Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao yielded the most number of private armed groups, followed by the Bicol Region and Central Luzon.

The PNP also told the Comelec that the number of election-related violent incidents has gone down by 17 percent from that of previous polls.

At least 12 people have been reported killed in suspected election-related violence since the start of the election period last Jan. 12.

Commissioner Remedios Fernando attributed the decrease to a "sincere implementation of the gun ban" and the neutralization of private armies.

She said the PNP and the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] expect even fewer election-related violence during the home-stretch of the campaign.

Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod expressed satisfaction with the PNP's election-related peacekeeping activities.

Also during the conference, police authorities disclosed that 302 towns all over the country have been tagged as probable election "hot spots."

A police intelligence report showed that among those considered hot spots were Ternate in Cavite, Maganoy in Maguindanao, and Candon in Ilocos Sur.

The three towns were placed on the watchlist after the killing of Ternate Mayor Octavio Velasco and his three companions last March 3, the ambush that killed Maganoy Vice Mayor Bantilan Paglala last Feb. 21, and the killing of a Lakas-NUCD [Epifanio de Los Santos Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats] leader Ramon Calindas in Candon only last Sunday.

Of the 302 probable hot spots, 182 towns in 16 provinces were considered "critical areas" and the rest "sensitive spots."

In Ilocos Sur, meanwhile, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino gubernatorial candidate Luis Singson accused Lakas-NUCD standardbearer Fidel V. Ramos of using Calindas' killing "to boost candidacy."

Singson, who was pitted against Lakas-NUCD candidate Antonio Abaya, said Ramos was using the killing to justify the sending of military troops to Candon.

Candon police chief Benjamin Lusad said Calindas was active in counter-insurgency when he was still a Constabulary sergeant, raising the possibility he was killed by the NPA [New People's Army].

Or, Lusad added, Calindas who owned a beer house in Candon and was the provincial warden in 1987 may have been killed by "someone who had a personal grudge" against him.

Lusad said it was also possible that the killing was political, noting that Calindas was Abaya's ward leader.

Asked if he thought the killing of his ward leader was politically motivated, Abaya said, "of course."

Fely Calindas, Ramon's widow, said her husband had received death threats over the phone four times.

She described her husband as "a die-hard supporter of Ramos."

Honasan Eludes Police Raid in Quezon City

HK3103052692 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 30 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

[By Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] Coup leader Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan eluded arrest during a raid conducted Saturday night by some 50 military and police operatives in a house in Murphy, Quezon City, a police report yesterday said.

The report said five persons, including three Air Force officers, were also arrested in the same raid in a house owned by a certain Mrs. Mona Estrada at the corner of Riverview and Starline roads, Blueridge Subdivision, Murphy, Quezon City at 8 p.m. March 28.

The report identified the arrested Air Force officers as Captains Gerardo Jamorabo Jr. and Wilfredo Jimenez and First Lieutenant Oleta Arevalo. Two civilians were also arrested in the raid—Allan Paje and a certain Wilfredo Cano Valencia. The operatives also recovered one Magma 750cc motorcycle believed to be the vehicle used by Honasan.

A member of the Armed Forces counter-intelligence command (AFPCJC) who took part in the raid said Honasan and two others managed to escape by jumping over the concrete fence and running towards the creek at the back of the house. The operatives even fired warning shots in the air but to no avail.

The source who asked not to be named, said they received reports that Honasan was invited by Mrs. Estrada, a close friend of the fugitive coup leader, to attend the graduation of Estrada's son. "Natunagan nila kami kaagad [they were on to us immediately]," said the source.

The source said both Jamorabo and Arevalo were still in the active military service. The source said Jamorabo was currently assigned to the 100th Training Wing at the San Fernando Air Base in Lipa City while Arevalo was with the 220th Airlift Wing at the Mactan Air Base in Cebu.

The source said Jimenez was implicated in the failed but bloody December 1989 coup and had a pending case in the Department of Justice (DOJ). Jimenez was detained at the Camp Crame jail after the December coup but was released and eventually terminated from the military service.

Paje, a Philippine Military Academy dropout, was also involved in the shortlived Northern Mindanao mutiny led by former Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Noble in October 1990. Paje was connected with the National Power Corporation office in Iligan City when the Noble mutiny broke out. He was captured and then detained but later freed.

The source said the three arrested PAF officers were turned over Sunday to the service command's intelligence unit at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. Paje and Valencia, who first introduced himself as Alberto Larisan, were released.

Military and police authorities, however, said the three officers were also freed due to lack of evidence.

General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, said "there was no crime committed" to keep the three Air Force officers in detention. "They were merely attending a graduation party," he told reporters.

Thailand

UK Provides Funds To Repair Cambodian Bridges

BK0104030192 Bangkok THE NATION in English
1 Apr 92 p A2

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] Britain yesterday handed Thailand Bt5 million [baht] to assist in the repair of two bridges along the route being used in Cambodia for the repatriation of more than 380,000 Khmer refugees.

Guy Ouellet, acting chief of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), handed the British donation to Lt Gen Amphon Chuthaphuti the foreign ministry's political-military coordinator.

The financial assistance will go towards the reinforcement of two bridges, one at Klongluek-Poipet and the other in Sisophon which serves as the main reception centre for the Cambodian returnees.

Amphon thanked Britain and the UNHCR for the grant aid and cooperation which he said would be of great benefit to the Cambodian population.

The reinforcement of the two rundown bridges is part of the Thai Government's contribution to help reconstruct the war-ravaged nation as part of the Cambodian peace settlement.

Thailand is financing a Bt144 million project to reconstruct and clear mines from a 48-kilometre route between Poipet and Sisophon under a Bangkok-Phnom Penh bilateral agreement, and a project of the same nature on the 68-km section between Sisophon and Battambang, under the auspices of the United Nations, is also underway. The road is part of Cambodian national highway No 5 and serves as the main conduit for the repatriation of the Cambodian refugees.

Britain has agreed in principle to provide financial aid towards the construction of a permanent bridge at Klongluek-Poipet to replace the repaired old one. About Bt13-15 million will be needed for the new bridge.

In his statement, Amphon said the repatriation on Monday of the first batch of 527 Khmer from Site 2 "would have been impossible without the reinforcement of the existing two bridges...and this was done thanks to the Bt5 million donated by the British Government through the UNHCR."

The benefit derived from rehabilitating the bridges is not only to facilitate repatriation, but also to ease "the operations of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] which will include the transportation of

aid from the international community for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia," he added.

First Batch of Displaced Cambodians Going Home

BK3003075292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] General [Gen] Suchinda Khraprayun, supreme commander cum Army commander, presided over the ceremony repatriating the first batch of about 600 displaced Cambodians at the Site 2 refugee camp in Ta Phraya District, Prachin Buri Province, this morning.

In a speech delivered at the ceremony, Gen. Suchinda said that throughout a period of 15 years that the displaced Cambodians have taken refuge in Thailand, the Thai Government has realized their sufferings and hardship and has therefore provided them with shelter and safety to enable them to live their lives fairly well. Moreover, Thailand has closely pursued all the efforts to establish peace in Cambodia in order to bring peace and security to this region, as well as to enable the Cambodians to return to their homeland. The efforts have now paid off. The Cambodians' ability to return home today has resulted from the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Thai Government, the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] in Phnom Penh on 21 November 1991. The memorandum of understanding is the end target for the displaced Cambodians to be able to choose freely and not by force where to return. What all of you will need in the future in your homeland are love, ability, and collaboration to create security in your motherland. All this would help maintain peace in Cambodia and also create stability in this region.

Daily Views Cambodian Repatriation Process

BK3003010192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Mar 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Testing Time for Cambodian Unity"]

[Text] An estimated 630 Cambodians today head back to their homeland with the help of United Nations at the start of a process vital to Cambodia's return to life as an independent state after 13 years of war. Material problems loom large over the repatriation operation which, it is hoped, will see an estimated 375,000 Cambodians from border camps in Thailand go back to their country by the end of the year.

The repatriation is the first step towards the goal of Cambodia's self determination in free, UN-organised general elections prescribed by the peace accord signed by 19 countries in Paris on October 23. It is being conducted under a memorandum of understanding signed in Phnom Penh on November 21 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia, and Thailand. But the UNHCR so far has been pledged less

than half of the \$116.3 million it believes is needed for the biggest-ever operation of this kind. With the shortage of funds comes a variety of problems.

Less than a quarter of the safe, arable land required for the returnees to start up new lives is available for allocation. Landmines and lawlessness stalk the countryside. There are concerns over potable water and malaria, with the discovery of a new strain said to be difficult, if not impossible, to cure. The rainy season soon to come and prevail for most of the rest of the year has raised a spectre of transportation difficulties, adding to fears that the operation may not be completed in time. But there is hope that more funds will be made available as agencies concerned forge ahead with plans against the odds. It is to be hoped new donors will come forward in time.

Whatever the outcome, the repatriation is a finite process, with a beginning and an end. This is unlike the problems it is expected to raise that beg concern, not least because they allow for only limited help from the international community. The principal problem is that of reintegrating a large but minority population long dependent on international aid—and under the control of resistance forces—into an eight million-strong society of largely destitute people who have survived with scant resources under Phnom Penh's leadership. Already the problem has reared its ugly head in Phnom Penh, with the recent attacks on political dissidents and former resistance officers in what has been condemned as a campaign of "intimidation."

Achieving a peaceful coming together of returnees and long-staying residents will be the ultimate test of the Cambodians' spirit of national reconciliation without which Cambodia cannot rise triumphant from the ashes of war. But Cambodians acknowledge the need for international help in this, as did the elderly school teacher who suggested the setting up of "villages of national reconciliation" that would bring together people loyal to all four factions.

The international community can also help ease the process by ensuring that returnees are relocated within existing communities—rather than set apart in new ones—and that locally-displaced villagers as well as returnees are given an adequate level of assistance in this transitional period. Under the repatriation programme, the returnees are to continue benefiting from UN assistance, including food rations, for about one year after they are relocated in their villages of destination.

The returnees are a remarkably young population, of which, according to UN statistics, 92.6 percent are below the age of 44 and 47 percent under the age of 15. Largely of farming background, the majority are going back to western Cambodia, with most—or 60 percent—opting for the ricebowl province of Battambang. The mass return to the west, throughout the conflict the strong hold of resistance forces, has its critics. Some sources are suggesting that the UN—through confidence building by the United Nations Transitional Authority on Cambodia

(UNTAC)—should go more to persuade people to go back to the eastern provinces. They say this would help solve the problem of land availability, leaving unstated the fact that it would also break Phnom Penh's hold over the area bordering Vietnam.

The repatriation begins amid a clear violation of the peace accord in the fighting between Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh forces at Kompong Thom which has raged since January, displacing thousands of people. The clout of UNTAC, with its force of 22,000 men, 16,000 of them military peace-keepers, is in doubt and the return of Cambodians to their homeland, to a life of fundamental freedoms is threatened if the killing is allowed to go on.

Cambodian Refugee Snags Blamed on Apathy
BK2903041292 Bangkok THE NATION in English
29 Mar 92 p A1

[Text] Aranyaprathet—Thai Army officials yesterday questioned the ability of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] to resettle Cambodian refugees, saying there could be delays to the plan.

According to the peace agreement reached in Paris last October, the UNHCR must resettle over 370,000 refugees in Cambodia by December this year.

The first wave of 630 refugees is scheduled to leave Thailand at the end of this month.

But Thai Army officials, claiming that UNHCR's "inefficiency" was a major stumbling block to achieving the plan, said they did not believe that it could be accomplished.

"The problem is that UNHCR does not have many of the necessary facilities to accomplish the plan on time.

"The biggest problem is the lack of roads to the resettlement sites," Royal Thai Army Lt Gen Sanan Sachonkram, director of the resettlement coordination centre, told THE NATION.

Only two roads so far have been built for the refugee resettlement operation, said Sanan. These roads, one connecting Poipet and Si Sophon and Battambang, were built by the Royal Thai Army in accordance with Thailand's responsibility outlined in the peace agreement.

"Other road, like the one the United States promised to build, have not even been started yet. And if things continue at this rate, it would take the nine months we have left just to get all the roads ready," he said.

The lack of available land is another stumbling block.

Sanan cited the example of Battambang, which according to the plan must absorb over 180,000 refugees who have chosen to resettle there.

"The plan said the UN will provide 10 rai of land for each refugee family. However, a large part of the land is already occupied by other Cambodian people.

"Furthermore, there is no organization directly responsible for this problem. So the resettlement will be done without any clear plan.

"It is like sending them to settle in a forest," he said.

Sanan added that he expected only about 200,000 refugees will be resettled in the nine months ahead.

The rest he said will have to wait until next year.

"We estimate we can send about 40,000-50,000 refugees per month after the December dateline is due.

"Those that are left behind will have to stay on in Thailand for the meantime," he said.

Sanan's opinion was echoed by the governor of Cambodia's Beanteay Meanchey province Ig Lau who said the UN resettlement plan was like sending people to die.

Joint Cambodian Border Point Opened

BK2703115492 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai
1030 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] El Bunthan, deputy governor of Preah Vihear Province of Cambodia, had a meeting with the Deputy Governor of Ubon Ratchathani, Chatsa-nga Molichat, at the provincial office in Ubon Ratchathani on 25 March.

The deputy governor of Ubon Ratchathani reported afterwards that they discussed the opening of a border point at Anna Pass on the Thai-Cambodian border. A memorandum was signed on the agreement to open a border checkpoint for trade to be located at a health office between Nam Yun District of Ubon Ratchathani and Choam Khsan District of Preah Vihear. The move is aimed at facilitating border trade between the people of the two countries. The border point will be opened from 0830 to 1630 starting from 1 April. The stationing of ranger troops at Anna pass will be temporary, but this could be made permanent if the border trade proves to be successful later on.

There is a high potential for border trade at this crossing as many provinces of Cambodia, including Stung Treng, have already expressed their desire for trade and economic exchanges at this border point. If border trade at the new point expands, the status of the soldiers' post at Anna Pass will be elevated to that of a permanent one. This, however, also depends on the policy of the future government.

Cambodia Pleased To Welcome More Thai Investors

BK3003051492 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in Thai 0000 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Deputy Finance Minister Wiraphong Ramangkun told reporters that he made a private visit to Cambodia on 29 March and got a chance to meet with several administrators of the Cambodian Government. During a consultative meeting with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, the prince

informed him of Cambodia's desire for Thailand to promote investment in Cambodia because Cambodia regards Thailand not only as a neighbor but also a big brother.

The prince said that Cambodia has a policy to develop the country and to promote more investment in the country so that businessmen from Thailand and other countries can invest in Cambodia, which is still rich in natural resources for the country's development in various fields.

On assistance to Cambodia, the Thai deputy finance minister said that Thailand has sent its officials in the financial and monetary fields to give advice to various Cambodian agencies. In addition, Cambodian financial and monetary officials have been sent to Thailand to receive training from the Bank of Thailand. Cambodian officials have reportedly admired the Thai way of carrying out works which has proved successful. They have therefore tried to study operational guidelines and learn the Thai language more actively.

Wiraphong went on to say that there still is a great opportunity for investment in Cambodia, but not many Thai investors have invested in that country. At present, Singapore and other Asian countries are putting in more investment in Cambodia. Therefore, he is of the opinion that Thai investors should not miss investment opportunities in Cambodia. However, Thai textile investors have expressed their interest to invest in the country. In this connection, Cambodian administrators are pleased to learn that Thai investors will invest in their country because the two countries are regarded as good neighbors.

Task Force on Progress of Operations in Cambodia

*BK3103100992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in Thai 0530 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Wirasak Raksasap, chief of the 2d Thai Army Engineering Task Force operating in Cambodia, told reporters recently that the construction of a 48-kilometer stretch of Route 5 from Khlong Luk-Poipet-Sisophon is nearly completed.

He said the next step is to strengthen and expand the surface of the road to six meters. The current problem is a shortage of water for use in road construction. The Thai soldiers had to travel a long distance to get water. The remaining landmines make it impossible to complete the road construction quickly. However, it is expected that the asphalt surface covering of the road could be done by next year.

Lt. Col. Wirasak reported that a large number of land mines were found and defused during the past operations. General Suchinda Khraprayun, supreme commander and Army commander, visited the task force and gave advice with a focus on maintaining the good reputation of the country. He expressed his concerns over the Thai troops and told them to specifically take into account their own safety.

Wirasak said the war dogs were a lot of help in the Thai soldiers' operations, thus enabling the work to proceed as planned. The Cambodian people are very cooperative in locating the land mines.

In the end, the chief of the task force thanked the Thai people for having concerns over them and gave reassurances that the 2d Army Engineering Task Force Battalion will perform its duties honestly to the best of its ability.

Anan Discusses U.S. Aid, Narong Wongwan Issue

*BK3103145592 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5
in Thai 1230 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Interview with Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded; first paragraph is announcer introduction]

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun conceded that the issue of U.S. allegations of Narong Wongwan's involvement in narcotics trafficking could affect Thai-U.S. relations.

[Reporter] Will the current controversy between Thailand and the United States lead to a strain in relations? From the fact that the Army....

[Anan, interrupting] Well, just from the fact that you are throwing questions on it back and forth, it could happen. [laughs]

[Reporter] Out of the blue, the Army came up with a statement on the U.S. aid cut, saying that the money given is just a little and that the Army already has had to contribute to that amount of \$15 million annually. Did you see any connection?

[Anan] There is nothing wrong with that. It was a statement of fact, and it is true that at present U.S. assistance to Thailand is small, especially military assistance. It is very small for all areas.

[Reporter] Do you think that this will lead to friction?

[Anan] I don't know, it depends. But, on the whole, our relations remain on good terms. There always can be a feeling of hurt or conflict even between friends or neighbors.

[Reporter] We believe that they have been unfair to our politician. They released news in such a way....

[Anan, interrupting] In what way?

[Reporter] Well, just like a warning [previous word in English] that this person is not cleared.

[Anan] I am not in a position to analyse their minds. Anyway, as I already have said, I do not believe that they really meant to have the story blown up like this.

Narong Ready To Contest U.S. Allegations

*BK3103131292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in Thai 1200 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Text] Suchat Tancharoen, spokesman of the Samakkhi Tham Party, told newsmen at noon today that to date his party had no knowledge of the report on the U.S. State Department spokesperson's assertion that evidence pertaining to the Samakkhi Tham Party leader's alleged involvement in narcotics trafficking would not be made public until after the completion of the formation of the Thai Government. However, his party affirmed that party leader Narong Wongwan already has cleared [preceding word in English] up the matter and merely is waiting for the United States to make its evidence public. The party leader is ready to provide his own evidence to refute the accusation. If the United States makes its evidence public after the government's formation, the party leader is ready to resign as prime minister to contest the allegation.

The party spokesman said that the five parties which will form the core of a government continue to affirm their support for Narong as prime minister, and after the formation the five parties may jointly discuss invitations to other parties to join the cabinet to enhance political stability. Negotiations already have begun with certain parties which cannot be named at this time.

Regarding the reported request by the Armed Forces for some ministerial portfolios, Suchat said that no negotiations have taken place so far to allocate portfolios. He noted that the Armed Forces had assured that they would not meddle in the government's formation so that political parties will have freedom in forming it.

Determined To Head New Government

*BK0104020492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
1 Apr 92 pp 1, 3*

[Text] Narong Wongwan is committed to forming and leading the next government, partly "to set a precedent that no foreign influence can interfere with the selection of the Thai leadership".

The prime minister-designate said yesterday he was going ahead to form the coalition.

"But this is not for myself. It's for the next generation. Otherwise anyone wanting to step into the top spot will need to get the approval of a foreign country," he said.

"People appear to have the impression that anybody wishing to become government leader must first receive the approval of a foreign country.

"If I withdraw (my nomination) now, the selection of prime ministers will remain under this influence."

Mr Narong said it was unfair for anyone qualified for the premiership in a democracy to step down simply because he is suspected, without proof, of a crime.

He also said he was not that keen on becoming prime minister and had not anticipated receiving this honour.

But he had to take a public stand on the issue.

"Because if I don't, politicians among the next generation will face the same problem I am facing now, and they will be forced to withdraw without a chance to speak the truth.

"I am standing by this principle for the sake of 50 million Thais, many of whom may have the same chance as I do now through democratic channels.

"What I am doing now is a sacrifice. I am withstanding criticism and all kinds of challenge to bring out the truth," he said when asked if he ever thought of withdrawing his nomination to avoid future problems.

"I am sacrificing all to maintain democracy. What I am doing is not for personal gain, but for the democratic principles we have been asking for."

The STP [Samakkhi Tham Party] leader insisted that the five political parties forming his bloc—Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon—remained firm in jointly forming the next coalition.

"All five parties are still with me. They are not only giving me their full support, they will not allow me to withdraw," he said.

Mr Narong said it was not his fault if he was unable to travel to the United States if appointed prime minister.

He said the blame should be placed on the US for refusing him the chance to clear himself of all allegations.

The STP, meanwhile, called for an end to public discussion over Mr Narong's alleged involvement in drug trafficking, declaring the US refusal to explain the allegations as tantamount to it having no evidence.

Reuters yesterday reported State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler as saying there was no onus on the United States to reveal its evidence against Mr Narong and her department had no plans to examine the case further.

She also said she doubted whether the State Department was ready to open its files on the Thai leader.

STP spokesman Suchat Tancharoen said Ms Tutwiler's statement was the same as the US having no evidence, witnesses or other information to back its allegations that Mr Narong had alleged connections with drug trafficking and so had been denied an entry visa in July 1991.

"So we are calling for all concerned to end everything here before it affects the economy and investment atmosphere," he said.

Mr Suchat said the matter should be brought to an end to stop the confusion among the public and avoid any damage to the economy.

Political parties should be allowed to continue with their efforts to set up a government based on the provisions of the democratic system.

He confirmed the Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon parties were still united in their plan to form a coalition government with Mr Narong as prime minister.

Mr Suchat said Mr Narong would head an elected government with a 30-seat majority which should be recognised and accepted. The majority decision of MPs should therefore be considered proper.

He denied reports the National Peace-keeping Council, [NPKC] had ordered Mr Narong to withdraw his nomination as premier, then supported the council's announcement that it would not interfere in politics.

Palang Tham Party leader Maj-Gen Chamlong Srimuang has called on Mr Narong to withdraw his nomination, a call Mr Suchat and STP deputy leader Chatchawal Chompudaeng described as surprising since Phalang Tham was not part of the coalition with the STP and was, therefore, not in a position to issue the call.

Mr Chatchawal asked how Maj-Gen Chamlong thought Mr Narong had been compromised since no evidence had been presented to prove the charges against him.

He said the Phalang Tham leader should examine himself since he was facing court action for being a religious instructor and thus ineligible for government office. Maj-Gen Chamlong should resign, he said.

Mr Suchat said it was the northern people and not Samakkhi Tham who were demanding an explanation from the US before Parliament opens tomorrow on why it had refused Mr Narong entry.

"We cannot say what they will do because they are not an organised mob belonging to us," he said.

The party will decide later whether to pursue legal action against Washington over its refusal to issue Mr Narong a valid entry visa.

Mr Narong issued a statement on Monday questioning the US Administration's motives in publicly confirming its refusal to issue him a visa.

He said the US should allow him entry and then arrest and try him if it was convinced he was involved in illicit activities.

Instead, the US Administration chose to prevent him from entering the country.

"My question is this: If the US did not have an ulterior motive, what kind of logic is it operating under?" he asked.

Mr Narong said the tight security at the US Embassy meant the information about him being denied a visa could not have reached reporters without an intentional leak.

The STP leader said he had made a trip to the US each year, sometimes several times a year, for the last 14 years and had never encountered any problem until he set up the STP on June 20 last year.

He said the controversy had caused him and his family great pain.

The refusal to grant him a visa was Washington's prerogative, but Mr Narong felt it first should have had enough evidence in hand to warrant this action.

He demanded that any evidence be made public to the Thai people before Parliament reconvened tomorrow.

"If no substantiated evidence is forthcoming from the US, this will indicate it does not have such evidence and I shall consider the case closed," he said.

Minister Queries Timing of Revelations on Narong

*BK0104021592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
1 Apr 92 p 1*

[Text] A leading Cabinet member yesterday questioned the timing of the US Administration's statement about its refusal to grant Samakkhi Tham leader Narong Wongwan a visa to travel to the US.

Talking to reporters at Government House yesterday, Minister Kasemsamoson Kasemsi of the Prime Minister's Office commented that the official who made the statement seemed well prepared to field questions on the issue.

While acknowledging that the US had the right to use its own law to protect itself from narcotic traffickers, M.R. Kasemsamoson said that the US official, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, apparently had the excerpt of the Immigration and Nationality Act in her hand because she obviously could not have repeated that section of the law from memory.

"To put it frankly, the person who fielded the questions must have known at heart that they would be raised," the minister said.

He, however, reaffirmed that the US has the right to use its law for its own protection.

"For example, the US may suspect that next week Mr A will try to smuggle narcotics or whatever substance into the US. The Government then decides not to issue that person a visa. The point is that it does not necessarily mean that Mr A is a trafficker. In this case he is only being suspected which probably prompted them (the Americans) to take such action," M.R. Kasemsamoson said.

"What's surprising is why the issue has become news now. Things would have been different if the disclosure was made three months ago or three months from now," the minister commented.

He said that the controversy has undoubtedly had an adverse effect on Mr Narong or else it would have not received such wide publicity from the mass media.

When asked if the US motive was to destroy a Thai politician, M.R. Kasemsamoson said the issue was more an enforcement of a country's law for self-protection.

"This is understandable. But why now?" said M.R. Kasemsamoson, who said that he was surprised to know that the person who made the statement had the details of the law in hand.

When asked if he thought that the US statement was timed in advance, M.R. Kasemsamoson did not answer but said that the impact of the statement would have been much different if it was made three months ago or three months from now.

"But the revelation will have a far-reaching impact on the country because it has made news all over the world. It may be good in the sense that now we will have to help establish the truth," he said.

Asked if he considered this a warning the US was trying to deliver to the Thais, M.R. Kasemsamoson said only the Americans can answer that.

But he did say that this US gesture was more serious than a normal warning.

When asked if he thought the US owed Mr Narong some kind of justice, the minister said: "There is no justice in this thing. The saying goes 'charity begins at home'. It has to start with the people. It (the US Administration) has to think about its people. It also has to think about the Opposition. But for all this, I only wish that it should have not happened. But if you were to ask me why, then I don't know."

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun commented that he did not think that the US had any intention to create a problem by its statement about Mr Narong.

He said, however, that he was in no position to analyse the US motive.

The Prime Minister confirmed an army spokesman's statement that the US has cut its military and economic assistance to Thailand but he maintained that bilateral relations remain sound.

He said he could not tell if the Narong issue would escalate to affect Thai-US ties.

"But there could be a problem if you keep bringing up the issue," Mr Anan said jokingly.

Army Secretary on U.S. Spokesperson Remarks
*BK3003155192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5
in Thai 1230 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Text] In order to prevent misunderstanding by the public or mass media concerning the remarks made by the U.S. State Department's spokesperson concerning U.S. aid to Thailand, especially allocations for the Armed Forces, Army Secretary Major General Chaturit

Phromsakha Na Sakonnakhon said today that U.S. military assistance to Thailand over the past three to four years was very small. The Army in particular has not received more than 100 million baht, an amount which is small and has not contributed to the strengthening of military capability.

[Begin recording in progress] [Chaturit] ...for the sake of friendship. I would like to stress here that the Army is always friendly toward the United States. But the way they talked about assistance gave us cause for concern, since the public or the news media could become confused and might think that the aid was a large sum and really contributed to the strengthening of our military capability. In fact, the assistance we have received over the past three to four years has been very small, and has barely contributed at all. The United States should not have discussed its aid in terms of a favor from friends in the manner it did. [end recording]

The Army secretary also added that the Army will not interfere in politics, especially in the formation of the government, but will remain neutral in order to be fair.

[Begin recording in progress] [Chaturit] ...I would like to reaffirm here that the Army has no intention to interfere in the process of democracy or in politics. Please understand this. Moreover, as for the concern that our superior wanted to assume a political post, I would like to make it clear that, up until now, our military leader has never indicated or hinted that he aspired to a political position. [end recording]

Papers on Choice of Narong as Prime Minister
BK2803035192

[Editorial Report] Three Thai-language newspapers—THAI RAT, MATICHON, and NAEON, on 27 March carry editorials commenting on the prospect of Samakkhi Tham Party Leader Narong Wongwan being the next prime minister.

THAI RAT's 800-word editorial on page 3, entitled: "195 against 165 votes," welcomes the fact that the five parties—Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai, and Ratsadon, have agreed to form a coalition, with 195 votes, and nominated Narong Wongwan, leader of the Samakkhi Tham Party, as prime minister. In this connection, the six parties left out in the opposition will command 165 votes. This means the government will have only 30 votes more than the opposition.

"With this marginal majority in the parliament, it is likely that the government will have a hard time in office because it will have to try not to upset any party in the coalition, especially the Social Action Party, seen as a variable factor which is ready to switch sides any time. It seems unlikely that the government can last more than six months," the paper concludes.

MATICHON's 900-word editorial on page 8, entitled: "National Honor," welcomes the fact the leader of the party with the highest number of votes has been nominated as prime minister under a democratic principle. Yet immediately after the nomination, there was a confirmation from the U.S. State Department that Narong Wongwan was denied a visa into the United States in July last year because they suspected him of involvement in narcotics trading. The confirmation by a high-level official of the U.S. State Department had an immediate impact on the prospect of Narong Wongwan becoming Thailand's prime minister.

"By etiquette, Narong Wongwan should withdraw from the candidacy for premiership. A prime minister is the chief executive, a position of honor and pride of a country, and as prime minister one is required to project a good image in the eyes of foreigners. Narong Wongwan should therefore make the sacrifice for the sake of national honor even though he plans to disprove the U.S. allegation later on," MATICHON says.

NAEO NA's 900-word editorial on page 4, entitled: "An Overnight Dream," regrets that amid the positive reaction to a prospect of an elected leadership, the person nominated as the next prime minister was exposed for suspicion of involvement in narcotics trading. In the beginning, Narong Wongwan himself as well as his supporters denied the allegation. But on 25 March, the U.S. State Department spokeswoman confirmed that Narong Wongwan was denied a visa in July last year under the law that bars entry into the United States to those involved in narcotics trafficking. It was stressed by the U.S. official that the United States just reserved the right to deny an entry visa to anybody and had no intention of interfering in the formation of a government in Thailand.

"Although it is clear that the U.S. allegation has nothing to do with the formation of a government in Thailand, we feel sorry for Narong Wongwan because the prime minister of a country must not be a person with a bad reputation, but should rather enjoy international recognition," NAEO NA says.

Vietnam

National Assembly 28 Mar Afternoon Session

*BK3103101192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 28 Mar 92*

[Report by Station Correspondent Truong Cong Hoa on the 28 March afternoon sitting of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th session at Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi—italicized passages recorded]

[Text] Dear friends, yesterday afternoon [28 March], the National Assembly worked at the conference hall. The National Assembly spent most of the afternoon discussing Chapter V in the fourth draft of amendments to

the 1980 Constitution. The chapter deals with the fundamental rights and obligations of citizens.

In this chapter, Article 47 stipulates that citizens of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam are those holding Vietnamese citizenship, while Article 48 affirms that in the SRV, human rights in political, civilian, economic, cultural, and social domains are respected and protected by the law.

Clearing up some doubts and views expressed by a number of National Assembly deputies during a debate on the concept of human rights, National Assembly Vice Chairman Phu Van Tuu—who directed the sitting—said: Human rights in Vietnam have been ensured since the founding of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The protection of human rights has now been specified officially in the Constitution. Human rights in the political, civilian, economic, cultural, and social domains specified in Article 48 of the draft revised constitution have been obtained from the two international conventions that have been signed by our country.

During the debate yesterday afternoon, 15 deputies expressed their views, which were focused on various issues, such as the eligible age for citizens to stand for election to the National Assembly in Article 52, the right to stage strikes or demonstrations in Article 67, the arrest and detention of people in Article 69, guilty or not guilty verdicts in Article 69, the policy toward women in Article 61, and freedom of faith in Article 68.

In the process of heated debate, all issues were carefully judged and some conflicting opinions heatedly discussed. However, all the views expressed were in agreement with Article 52, which clearly defines that all citizens of Vietnam reaching the age of 21 have the right to stand for election to the National Assembly and People's Councils, with the exception of the insane or people deprived of their rights as citizens.

Some deputies suggested that people nominated to stand for election to the National Assembly should have been educated to a grade 9 or 12 level.

During the debate on human rights, the questions of crippled children, orphans, and children of poor families or the compatriots in mountainous regions were raised several times. Typical of this was the view expressed by sister Nguyen Thi Kim Dung, a National Assembly deputy from Quang Binh Province. She said:

It should be added to the last part of Article 57 that it is necessary to furnish general education or vocational education to children in the mountainous regions, poor children, and particularly crippled children in a way that suits their conditions. This is because I can see that it is very difficult not only for crippled children but also children in the mountainous regions and poor children to receive education.

Along with discussing the rights of children, many deputies suggested that it should be specified in this article

that parents have the responsibility to raise and educate their children or parents have the duty to raise and educate their children as in revised Article 62. Meanwhile, in Article 63 the word family should be placed in front of the following phrase: state and society look after, protect, care for, and educate children.

Many deputies stressed the need to further clarify the part dealing with the responsibility of children to respect and care for their grandparents and parents specified in Point 4 of Article 62.

In yesterday afternoon's debate, many deputies also touched on Article 61 of the revised draft, which deals with the issue of equality between men and women. As many as six female deputies expressed their views on this issue. Deputy Nguyen Thi Hong Minh from Minh Hai Province suggested that in Point 1 of Article 61, it should be specified further that all acts of maltreatment or physical violation against women are prohibited.

Most of the statements laid stress on the need to rewrite Article 61 in order to prevent inequality among women of various circles. The following statement by sister Nguyen Kim Anh, a deputy from Ha Tay Province, was a typical case:

As for Article 61, I agreed with a number of debators that women and men should have equal rights in all areas—political, economic, cultural, social, and family-related—and that the state and various socioeconomic organizations should create conditions for women to improve their general knowledge and constantly develop their role in society and in their families.

I suggest that we drop the passage saying that women and men should be given equal pay when working on the same job and that women, regardless of whether they are state employees or salaried workers, should be entitled to pre- and post-maternity paid leaves. This passage, originally intended to emphasize women's equal rights with men, is not accurate and practical because, despite working on the same job, a male worker can always do more work than a female worker and therefore can earn more money than the latter under the piece-work pay system. This should have more accurately stated that male and female workers are entitled to the same pay for the same amount of work done. In fact, even working on the same job a female worker must spend more energy than a male worker to do the same amount of work.

In addition, a female worker must also perform her heaven-delegated duty as a woman. I think we should not try to interpret this passage because by trying to do so we will merely show disrespect for the equal rights between women and men. Therefore, I suggest that it suffices for us to specify that women are entitled to maternity allowances and insurance in accordance with state stipulations.

Dear friends: Following the debate over children's rights and over the equality between men and women, participants also boisterously debated over citizens' freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of information,

and freedom to gather and demonstrate as stipulated by the law. Deputy Pham Nhu Cuong from Nghe An proposed that freedom of thought must be added. Deputies Vu Thi Lien from Haiphong, Nguyen Thi Hong Minh from Minh Hai, and Phan Huu PHuc from Cuu Long backed the idea of freedom of demonstration by citizens as cited in the draft amendments against arguments by Deputies Nguyen Thi Kim Dung from Quang Binh and Nguyen Thi Nhat from Quang Ninh who opposed inclusion of the phrase freedom of demonstration in the draft.

During the debate, National Assembly deputies appeared to have agreed with a proposal of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu that the freedoms to strike and to carry out work stoppages should not be noted in the Constitution. These two rights should instead be reflected in the labor law.

After debating human rights, Catholic Priest Phan Khac Tu from Ho Chi Minh City suggested revising Article 68, partly dealing with citizen's freedom of religion, by which they may join one or none of the religious faiths. When discussing Article 68, a number of deputies proposed that for Point 2 all we need write is that sites of worship for different religious faiths shall be protected by the state and the names of various sites of worship should be listed. They also proposed to add that it is the responsibility of religious followers to protect their own property. These were two out of many suggestions calling for the National Assembly to pay more attention to religious matters and set up a religious affairs committee to serve as a consultative body for the National Assembly in this domain.

Articles 69 and 70 in the draft constitutional amendments also sparked an extensive debate. Most of the deputies discussing these two articles expressed their desire to distinguish law violators from criminals, because there have been cases of individuals being arrested for violations of the law and not for being criminals. At the same time, they also wanted to correct the letters of these articles to make them more concrete and easy to understand.

In this regard, Deputy Pham Hung from Hai Hung Province said:

As has been discussed by a number of deputies during the debate, I would like to add the following words: Among citizens' rights, the right to physical inviolability is very important for citizens. A most fundamental principle of citizens' rights is noted in all the laws—not only of our country but also of other advanced nations—that no one can be arrested without a court order or without approval from the People's Organ of Control. In principle, this is aimed at guaranteeing the most important and lofty right of citizens—that is, their physical freedom. Therefore, I agree with a number of deputies' proposals to drop the word can and correct it as follows: No one shall be arrested without an order from the people's court or approval from the People's Organ of Control.

A deputy from Quang Binh proposed that the portion dealing with people acting against the law at the expense of others as outlined in Article 70 must be corrected as follows: Those unlawfully ordering the arrest of a person shall be severely dealt with according to the law.

Dear friends: During the course of yesterday afternoon's debate over Chapter VI on the fundamental rights and duties of citizens, National Assembly deputies expressed their sense of responsibility by weighting the pros and cons of every sentence and every word in proposing the replacement of many groups of terms with clearer and more complete ones.

In addition, we are presenting below a statement by Deputy Pham Hai Chuong from Binh Thuan in the hope that you, friends, can realize how prudent and cautious the National Assembly deputies were when they engaged in the debate. When discussing Article 72, Deputy Pham Hai Chuong pointed out:

I agree that we should try in such a way that all complaints and denunciations shall be examined and settled by the state organs and the administration at various levels concerned within a period stipulated by law. If we fail to do so in accordance with its responsibility and if we are denounced by the complaint filers for causing damage to their legal interests, these state organs or the administration at various levels concerned shall take responsibility for this and be dealt with in accordance with the law.

National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tung concluded yesterday afternoon's sitting by rounding up the debate over Chapter VI. He said: During the debate, National Assembly deputies promptly reflected the actual situation in their localities, thus creating conditions for the administration at various levels to overcome shortcomings displayed in their work.

National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu also asked the deputies to see if additional debate over this chapter would be needed. If yes, they should submit a written proposal to the Committee To Prepare the Fourth Draft of Amendments to the 1980 Constitution via this National Assembly session's secretariat so the latter can promptly study and rectify this draft one more time.

Tomorrow, Monday 30 March, the National Assembly will continue its debates at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall.

National Assembly 30 Mar Morning Session

BK0104042192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Report by station correspondent Kim Cuc on 30 March morning activities of the 11th session of eighth National Assembly at Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi—italicized passages recorded]

[Text] Dear friends, this morning the deputies met in the conference hall and focused their discussions on Chapter VI of the draft amendments to the Constitution in the National

Assembly. There were 32 deputies airing their views. Most agreed with the name of Chapter VI and with other provisions aimed at upholding the National Assembly's role and at creating conditions for National Assembly deputies to avoid being formalist in their operations. The deputies were very careful when suggesting ways to reword the various provisions under this chapter.

Regarding revised Article 82 which stipulates that the National Assembly is the highest representative body of the people and the highest organ of state authority of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, some deputies suggested that this article be reworded to better define the role and functions of the National Assembly. According to many deputies, this article should be reworded as follows: The National Assembly is the highest organ of state authority enforcement.

This was the view aired by Comrade Vu Dinh Cu, deputy from Hanoi. He said: *We believe that an important issue should be mentioned regarding Article 82 as follows: As we all know, the National Assembly is the highest representative body of the people and the highest organ of state authority of the SRV. Here, it involves the issue of the highest organ of state authority. The truth is that as far as our country is concerned, the system of highest state authority rests with the mechanism of party leadership, state management, and people's mastery.*

It could be understood that to a certain extent, since the National Assembly is the representative body of the people, it stands for the highest state authority. We believe, however, that the highest state authority should be based on three factors, namely party leadership, state management, and people's mastery. It would be difficult for the people to exercise that authority. Therefore, I would suggest that we reword this article to make it clear that the National Assembly is only the highest organ of authority enforcement. Thus, I would suggest that this part be reworded as follows: The National Assembly is the highest organ of state authority enforcement.

The deputies also actively contributed diverse opinions to Article 83 on the rights and duties of the National Assembly. The following is the view aired by Comrade Mai Thuc Lan, deputy from Ha Bac Province:

It has already been specified under Provision 4 of Article 83 that the National Assembly has the right to decide on national financial and monetary policies as well as on state budget estimates; ratify the final balance of the state budget; and institute, revise, and repeal taxes. We would suggest that one more right be added to this provision as follows: The National Assembly has the right to decide on national financial and monetary policies, state budget estimates, and amounts of money to be issued. Given the utmost importance of money issuance, the National Assembly must have a say in this matter. If we only mention the National Assembly's rights to review or ratify the final balance of the state budget and decide on national financial and monetary policies but do not include its right to decide on the amounts of money to be

issued, it would be very difficult for the National Assembly to oversee the implementation of national financial and monetary policies.

The following is the view aired by Comrade Truong Quang Duoc, deputy from Hai Phong City: *Regarding Provision 7 of Article 83, in addition to the opinions contributed by other comrades, I deem it necessary to add one more thing to the phrase the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control. This is aimed at ensuring the completeness of Provision 7, which defines the National Assembly's right to decide on personnel organization. My suggestion is that this provision be supplemented as follows: To elect or release from duty the chairman and vice chairman of the Council of State; the chairman, vice chairman, and secretary general of the National Assembly Standing Committee; the prime minister; the chief judge of the Supreme People's Court; the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control; chairmen of National Assembly councils; and heads of National Assembly committees. This is aimed at ensuring the completeness of the National Assembly's right to decide on matters related to personnel organization. The reason for my suggestion is that because the rights of National Assembly councils and National Assembly committees have been defined quite clearly under Article 95.*

Regarding the number of National Assembly sessions, many deputies agreed with the need for the National Assembly to meet twice instead of three times a year as mentioned under Article 85 of the draft of amendments to the Constitution. Many deputies maintained that it would be of utmost importance to get documents ready for the participants and also to work out appropriate agendas of discussions to guarantee that National Assembly sessions bring about effective results.

Comrade Le Xuan Duc, deputy from Thanh Hoa Province, said: *It has been said under Article 85 that on the recommendations of the presidium, the National Assembly shall meet three times a year at the convocation of the National Assembly Standing Committee. Our opinion is this: The draft of amendments to our Constitution already contains an article on the need to consolidate the National Assembly's operations through the activities of special committees. In our opinion, first, importance should be attached to the consolidation of the activities of special committees, and second, experiences drawn from the eighth National Assembly indicate that so far, we have met only twice a year, yet, there has been a lack of sufficient documents and information.*

In our opinion, if we succeed in providing the deputies with sufficient documents and information as well as in strengthening the activities of special committees, then we will only need to meet twice a year and that would be enough.

Debators were also unanimous when suggesting that although there is no need to have a secretary general in the National Assembly's Standing Committee, we should have a state president and a National Assembly

chairman. The chairman of the National Assembly should be concurrently the chairman of the National Assembly's Standing Committee.

The following is the view aired by Comrade Pham Van Huan, a National Assembly deputy from Dac Lac Province:

I would like to speak of Chapter VI. As for the organization of our National Assembly, I agree that we should have the chairman of the National Assembly concurrently the chairman of the National Assembly's Standing Committee as well as various National Assembly committees. However, as concern has already been expressed by various deputies, I think that the functions and duties of our National Assembly deputies are very great because we have to comply with the system of reporting to voters on our activities as well as those of the National Assembly. We have to answer those requests and petitions made by voters. We have to examine and supervise the settlement of citizens' complaints and denunciations. We have to guide and help citizens in exercising their rights.

I think that if there are no National Assembly deputies in charge of a particular locality and if this task is taken over by the collective, it would be very difficult for the National Assembly to resolve this task. Therefore, from my perspective, each locality should have at least one National Assembly deputy in charge. And in large cities such as Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Haiphong, and Danang, there should be a number of National Assembly deputies—from three to four—in charge. These deputies in charge can be members of various special committees of the National Assembly.

This will facilitate them in carrying out such activities as going to attend a meeting, engaging in a social function, or reporting to the Standing Committee and the chairman of the National Assembly on voters' opinions and those matters to be solved by the National Assembly in its sessions. This is the first point. The second point is: As National Assembly deputies have the right to petition various state organs, I propose that all state organs from central down to local levels and the persons in charge of these organs be duty-bound to receive National Assembly deputies and to look into and solve the petitions raised by these deputies within a period stipulated by law.

With regard to a planned position of the state president, I think that we should be unanimous over the position of the state president and that of the National Assembly chairman. The chairman of the National Assembly should concurrently be the chairman of the National Assembly's Standing Committee.

Other points in Chapter VI also drew heated debate by the National Assembly deputies, for instance, the percentage of National Assembly deputies to be assigned to take charge of certain fields of activity, drawing up a budget for the National Assembly, and the like.

National Assembly 30 Mar Afternoon Session

*BK3103145792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Report by station correspondent Dinh Khai on the 30 March afternoon sitting of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session—italicized passages recorded]

[Text] Dear friends: Yesterday afternoon the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session continued its work in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall under the direction of its Chairman Le Quang Dao. The deputies devoted the whole afternoon to debating Chapter VIII on government and Chapter IX on the people's councils and the people's committees of the draft revised 1980 Constitution.

Some 22 views were presented and debated heatedly. The deputies weighed every article, even every word and every idea in these two chapters. Some deputies suggested substitution of the word leading with guidance in the first paragraph of Article 112, Chapter VIII, or replacement of the word control with supervision in Article 120.

Regarding Chapter VIII, many deputies discussed Article 112 on the duty and authority of the prime minister. Concerning the third paragraph of this article, Deputy Ly Chanh Trung of Ho Chi Minh City suggested that the prime minister should have the right to appoint and dismiss province chiefs.

Deputies Le Tai of Quang Binh Province and Vu Tuan of Hai Hung Province suggested substitution of the sentence the deputy prime minister assists the prime minister in discharging his duties in the sixth paragraph of this article with the sentence the deputy prime minister helps the prime minister by doing those tasks assigned by the prime minister.

Many deputies focused on debating Chapter IX on the people's councils and the people's committees. Some suggested abolition of the people's committees at the district and village levels. Yet, some others recommended the maintenance of these organizations until the end of their terms in 1994, and then a recapitulative report on their performances will be made and a decision will be taken. On this point, Deputy Tran Ngoc Phuong of Hau Giang Province said:

First of all, I agree with the Constitution Amendment Committee's question about the levels at which the people's councils should be established. We suggest that the people's councils should be maintained until 1994 to see at which level they are still needed. It is not advisable to immediately do away with the district and village levels. We must see that the present debate at these levels is very useful. If you are very keen to do away with these levels, I am afraid that it will greatly affect the 1992-95 plan. The problem here is how to improve the work of the people's councils at all levels, making it more practical.

Many deputies discussed Article 117 of Chapter IX. The first group disagreed with the statement in the draft saying

the people's council is the local organ of state power. Deputy Phan Khac Hy of Vinh Phu Province said:

The people's councils should not be said to be the local organ of state power. If we are going to maintain these councils, they must be the people's representative organs to perform the two duties as presented by Comrade Thai Binh to collect and submit the people's aspirations to the administration and to supervise the administration on behalf of the people in order to see whether it has correctly implemented the National Assembly resolutions and the state law.

However, many other deputies proposed to keep intact what has been written in the fourth draft revised constitution. For example, Deputy Duong Van Han of Ben Tre Province said:

Comrades, allow me to read Chapter I, Article 2: The SRV state is of the people, by the people, and for the people. All the state power belongs to the people. Moreover, Article 6 says: The people use the state power through the National Assembly and the people's councils. You people fear the word power. However, it is clearly stated that the local state power is not the highest power. And the local state power must be subject to higher-level state agencies that are empowered to suspend or cancel all wrongful resolutions of the people's councils. If these people's councils are still doing wrong, they can be disbanded. Why should we fear? And as a matter of fact, such a situation has never occurred.

Another issue discussed by many deputies was the designation of the administrative agencies at all levels. Should they be called people's committees or administrative committees?

Some deputies unanimously agreed with the draft to keep intact the old designation of the people's committees at all levels. Yet, many others suggested that they should be called the administrative committees. Deputy Nguyen Van Dang of Ho Chi Minh City said:

I suggested that they should be called the administrative committees and not the people's committees, which are too familiar. Does a change cost anything? Whoever proposes keeping the old name is wrong. The question is this—how do we invest the committees with real power so they can perform? Therefore, I agree that the committees should be called administrative committees. These administrative committees are not the local agencies of state administration which we usually call local authorities.

Many deputies also debated the election or appointment of chairmen of committees at all levels in Chapter IX. Some suggested that committee chairmen be elected by the people's councils of the same levels and be approved by higher echelons. Yet many others proposed the appointment system, such as Deputy Nguyen Dinh Thong of Phu Yen Province:

I suggested that provincial administrative committee chairmen be appointed by the prime minister and their deputies be selected and recommended by the provincial

chairmen themselves to the prime minister for approval. As for district chairmen, they will be appointed by the provincial administrative committees, and the village chairmen will be appointed by the district committees on condition they have the ability to perform the tasks assigned by higher echelons.

Some other deputies suggested that committee chairmen should not be called as they are now but consideration should be made to give them such shorter designations as province chiefs, district chiefs, and village chiefs.

During yesterday afternoon's sitting, the National Assembly deputies worked scrupulously with a high sense of responsibility. In only three hours or so, some 22 deputies made their statements carefully on each article in the two chapters of the draft revised 1980 constitution. There were still 20 registered deputies who did not have time to make their statements. Today, the seventh day of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session, the deputies are continuing to work in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi.

Communique No. 6

*BK3003160392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Communique No.6 of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session]

[Text] On 30 March 1992, the National Assembly held a plenary session in the conference hall under the direction of National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao. The National Assembly discussed Chapter VI, VII, VIII, and IX of the Fourth Draft of the revised constitution.

Regarding Chapter VI on the national assembly and Chapter VII on the chairman of the council of state, there were 31 deputies giving statements about the duties and authority of the National Assembly, National Assembly chairman, National Assembly standing organization, and Council of State chairman; the relations between the National Assembly standing organization and head of the state; and functions and duties of National Assembly councils and committees. The deputies also debated on how many sessions the National Assembly should hold in a year.

Regarding Chapter VIII on the government and Chapter IX on the people's council and people's committee, there were 22 deputies speaking on the duties and authority of the government and prime minister, working regulations of the government, and the responsibilities of the government, prime minister, and ministers to the National Assembly. They discussed the duties and authority of the People's Council, organizations of the People's Council at all levels, and the standing organization of the People's Council. The deputies also discussed whether to retain the name People's Council or change this name to Administration Committee, and whether the people's committee should be selected by the People's Council or be appointed by higher level. The deputies also debated

the working regulations of the people's committee and responsibilities of the head of the people's committee.

On 31 March 1992, the National Assembly will continue its discussion at the conference hall on the following chapters of the revised draft constitution.

National Assembly 31 Mar Session

*BK0104064792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Report by station correspondent Ngoc Ky on 31 March Sitting of Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session in Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi—italicized passages recorded]

[Text] Today is the seventh work day of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th session with a plenary sitting in Ba Dinh Conference Hall under the direction of Chairman Le Quang Dao.

During the first hour of the morning sitting, the deputies continued debating Chapter VIII on government and Chapter IX on the People's Councils and the people's committees of the draft revised 1980 constitution. Some eight deputies made their statements almost agreeing with the contents and words in these chapters, particularly the position and functions of the government, the relationship between the government and the National Assembly and the latter's standing committee, the close combination of the prime minister's authority with that of the government as a collective, and the prime minister's right to decide specific issues to ensure timely and effective operation. A majority of deputies agreed with the designations of People's Council and people's committee in the draft. Yet, some suggested that the designations be changed into administrative committees at all levels and that the committee chairmen be invested with operational control authority. The organization of government as well as of the people's committee must follow the regime of managerial responsibility. Only by doing so, can the validity of the executive agencies be enhanced.

Some deputies proposed that the People's Councils at village and hamlet levels be strengthened and consolidated while others maintained that the administrative committees should be given more authority. As for the People's Council chairmen, some deputies suggested that they be elected by the People's Councils and the people's committee chairmen be given the right to appoint their deputies. Some others maintained that provincial and district chairmen be changed into province and district chiefs to enhance their individual responsibility to the people, and so forth.

Together with their suggestions on some specific issues, many deputies proposed the rearrangement of some positions and the addition or reduction of some words, phrases, and sentences for more accuracy to clearly reflect all the contents of the constitution of a country.

Also during this morning sitting, the deputies discussed the remaining three chapters of the draft revised constitution. They are Chapter X on the people's court and the people's organ of control, Chapter XI on the national flag, emblem, anthem and capital; and Chapter XII on the validity of the Constitution. Some 16 deputies made statements on these chapters. On Chapter X, the deputies focused on discussing such issues as the designations of the court and the organ of control, and the functions of the organ of control and presiding judges and the appointment of jurors. There were many differing views on the designations. Some proposed the maintenance of old designations as the People's Supreme Court and the supreme people's organ of control while others suggested the supreme court and the supreme organ of control as appropriate or just the designations of court for the supreme court and prosecution for the organ of control. On this issue, Deputy Le Giang of Ha Tay Province said: *I fully agree with the idea of keeping the designations of people's court and people's organ of control in the draft. The first reason is that Article 2 of the draft constitution, which will definitely be passed by our National Assembly, says that this administration is of the people. As a result, its operation must be for the people and by the people. We should keep the word people to show that we work for the people and to prompt the administration to be just in adjudicating on the strength of the people and not individuals. In performing the tasks of adjudication, consideration, examination, and control we should always proceed from the goal of the people's interests. If the word people is eliminated, one would ask whose court and whose organ of control they are.*

Another much debated issue was the organization of the people's court. Some deputies suggested that the court be organized depending on the adjudicating levels and not by administrative units in conjunction with the adjudicating levels as it is now, that there should be adjudicating councils at various levels to ensure fairness and impartiality, and that cadres of courts and organs of control should be appointed.

On this issue, Deputy Phan Huu Phung of Cuu Long Province said: *To ensure more fairness and justice in adjudication, we should organize two levels of adjudication because these levels of adjudication are linked later to the system of vertical control over courts which means to the system of appointments and not to election in which many deputies have concurred.*

As for the people's organ of control, many debators suggested that the people's organ of control should continue to retain its two functions, namely general economic control and public prosecution. It should focus attention on exercising its control over law enforcement, trying to ensure scrupulous and uniform enforcement of the law nationwide on the principle of its existing vertical organizational system.

With regard to Chapter XI dealing with national flag, national emblem, national anthem, and capital city, a number of debates favored the idea of reserving a

separate chapter for these issues. Some debates suggested that the term Quoc Ca [national song] should be changed to Quoc Thieu [national anthem].

In this regard, Comrade Tran Van Phat, a National Assembly deputy from Hai Hung Province said: *Regarding Chapter XI, I also favored the ideas of reserving a separate chapter for the aforementioned issues and changing the term Quoc Ca into Quoc Thieu because the term Quoc Thieu implies both singing or playing by a band of the national anthem. Our national anthem is based on the music of the song Tien Quan Ca [March Song]. I think that we can, when the time comes, flexibly modify the words of this song, except for its eternally valuable music which cannot be composed overnight.*

Contributing his views on this chapter, Comrade Le Xuan Duc, a National Assembly deputy from Thanh Hoa Province, said: *I propose that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam's national emblem should be round-shaped with a red background and a five-angle gold star in the middle. The gold star is flanked by two panicles of rice with a cog wheel and the inscription of Cong Hoa Xa Hoi Chu Nghia Vietnam [The Socialist Republic of Vietnam] underneath. Only with this design can our national emblem be reflective of both workers and peasants. I suggest adding some descriptive features on the intelligentsia. That is the first point. The second point is that in this chapter of the Constitution, the 2 September National Day should be inscribed as it is a sacred day of our fatherland. Judging from this, Chapter XI should be given the following subhead: National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, National Day, and Capital City.*

Dear friends: During the morning's debates, although there were still some differing views over certain chapters, certain articles, and certain sentences, the National Assembly deputies with a sense of responsibility contributed many well-conceived, practical, and concrete views to the draft of amendments to the Constitution to promptly perfect and promulgate it for implementation by the entire population.

This afternoon, the National Assembly continued its plenary sitting at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall. The National Assembly deputies heard Mr. Hoang Quy, minister of finance representing the Council of Ministers, report on the 1992 state budget estimate; Mr. Nguyen Hoa, acting head of the National Assembly's Economic, Planning, and Budget Committee, brief on the 1992 state budget; Mr. Tran Dinh Hoan, minister of war invalids and social welfare representing the Council of Ministers, report on a plan for wage reform in 1992; a representative of the National Assembly's Economic, Planning, and Budget Committee and Health and Welfare Committee brief on the wage issue; Mr. Ngo Xuan Loc, minister of construction representing the Council of Ministers, report on steps to be taken to deal with the pricing of grade-one and grade-two houses, condominiums, housing complexes, and villages in Ho Chi Minh City; Mr. Phan Ngoc Tuong, a minister of state in charge of the government personnel organizational committee

representing the Council of Ministers, report on proposed readjustments of administrative boundaries.

Tomorrow, 1 April, National Assembly deputies will hold group discussions on the two draft laws on National Assembly organization and on National Assembly election in preparation for their debates to be held at the conference hall.

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[Text] On 31 March 1992, the National Assembly held a plenary session at the conference hall. National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao directed the session.

During the morning sitting the National Assembly discussed Chapters VIII, IX, X, XI, and XII of the fourth draft of amendments to the Constitution. Regarding Chapter VIII on the organization of the government and Chapter IX on the organization of people's councils and people's committees, there were altogether eight deputies airing their views on the principle of collective leadership and individual responsibility in the organization and operation of the government and people's committees at all levels; on the rights and duties of local people's councils; on the working relationship between people's councils and people's committees; and on state guidance over the operations of people's councils.

Regarding Chapter X on the organization of the People's Court and People's Organ of Control; Chapter XI on the national flag, emblem, anthem, and capital; and Chapter XII on the efficiency of the Constitution and amendments to the Constitution, there were altogether 16 deputies airing their views on the names of people's

courts and people's organs of control; on the establishment of people's courts based on administrative boundaries or on judiciary hierarchy; appointment or elections of judges in charge of people's courts at all levels; retention of the overall supervisory function of people's organs of control or otherwise; the size and position of the star on the national flag; additional details of the national emblem; amendments to the Constitution; and procedures for ratifying constitutional amendments.

During the afternoon sitting, the National Assembly heard the following:

1. On behalf of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Finance Hoang Quy read an additional report on the 1992 state budget estimates. Nguyen Hoa, acting head of the National Assembly Economy, Planning, and Budget Committee, briefed the deputies on the committee's views on a report by the Council of Ministers;

2. On behalf of the Council of Ministers, Tran Dinh Hoan, minister of labor, war invalids, and social welfare services, read a report on the 1992 wages adjustment plan. On behalf of the National Assembly Public Healthcare and Social Welfare Services Committee and its standing body, Mai Thuc Lan, deputy head of the National Assembly Economy, Planning, and Budget Committee, briefed the deputies on a report by the Council of Ministers.

3. On behalf of the Council of Ministers, Ngo Xuan Loc, minister of building, read a report on ways to effect the sales of Level I and II houses, condominiums, flats, and villas in Ho Chi Minh City to the public.

4. Minister Phan Ngoc Tuong, head of the Council of Ministers Cadre Organization Committee, read a report by the Council of Ministers on delineation of the administrative boundaries of provinces and cities under the jurisdiction of the central government.

Between 1 April and the afternoon of 2 April 1992, the National Assembly deputies will work in groups.

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